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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FAC remains the same for Jan. PAGE 2 | Man who shot wife faces 4 charges. PAGE 9

PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Peter and Emma Perez

Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Limited managing director Emma Perez poses for a photo with the 40-foot, double-hulled Polynesian canoe that is the *Okeanos Marianas*.
KIMBERLY PEREZ

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It is a romantic, even a quixotic, notion. But imagine hundreds of traditional canoes sailing on the Saipan lagoon, their sails flapping in the wind.

That is the mental image in the mind of the Perez couple behind the *Okeanos Marianas,* the idea of reviving a cultural norm that has been lost to the indigenous Chamorro culture for hundreds of years.

Husband-and-wife Peter and Emma Perez may technically only be half Chamorro, but that does not measure their love for the Chamorro culture. The Perezes are advocates for the restoration of the Chamorro maritime traditions like traditional

See PETER on Page 4

NMI tourism rebound is top story for 2017

Efforts to strengthen awareness about the CNMI around the world as a tourist destination brought many successes in 2017, making it the *Saipan Tribune*'s top story for 2017.

In a poll within the newspaper's editorial department, the revival of this once-moribund industry has caused even federal agencies to sit up and take notice.

RELATED NEWS
Other top stories of 2017.
PAGE 3

One of the most promising development is the CNMI being ranked as the third-fastest growing tourist destination in the world by the United

See NMI on Page 4

5-year-old dies hours after arriving

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A 5-year-old Japanese tourist who had complained of abdominal pain before and on the way to Saipan died last Wednesday.

The Department of Public Safety responded to a call at approximately 1:47am Wednesday due to a child choking at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Officers arrived two minutes later and found medical personnel perform-

See 5-YEAR-OLD on Page 4

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Maganda 'Utang'

Moon Haeng Lee, popularly known as "Papasang," poses outside of his 25-year-old bedding shop called Maganda "Utang."
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Only a handful of pioneer businesses that assisted in the development of the islands has lasted for years and one of that is the Maganda "Utang" shop, earning for itself the honor as this year's *Saipan Tribune* Small Business of the Year.

The Maganda "Utang" shop in central Garapan was first established back in 1992 and has survived the vicissitudes of the CNMI economy for over two decades.

The small shop offers bedsheets, curtains, pillows, blankets, comfort-

See MAGANDA on Page 4

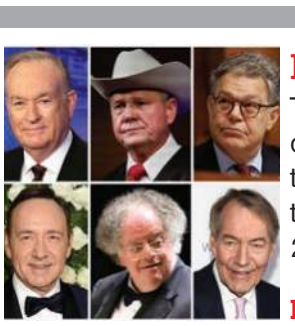
NOTICE

There will be no issue of *Saipan Tribune* on Jan. 1-2, 2018.

Happy New Year!

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Key issues in 2018 that will directly impact your personal finances.
PAGE 23



NATION
The sexual misconduct stories that toppled many was the top news story of 2017.
PAGE 24

LIFE & STYLE
Barack Obama told Prince Harry that people must be careful in their use of social media.
PAGE 28

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Local

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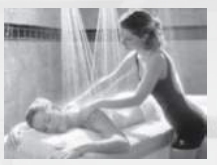
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FAC remains the same for Jan.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that the fuel adjustment charge, formerly known as the levelized energy adjustment charge, remains at $0.18231 per kWh for the month of January 2018.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from December to January as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the increase did not equal to or exceed 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel. Accordingly, there will be no adjustment made to the FAC rate for the month of January, 2018.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission had allowed CUC to adjust the FAC rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate.

The FAC is used to purchase fuel and serves as one of the two components that make up a CUC power bill. The second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing. ***(CUC)***

OTHER TOP STORIES OF 2017

1 CW-1 program cut by 3,000

A total of 3,000 slots were removed from the CNMI-only Transitional Worker Program, or the CW-1 program, for fiscal year 2018, which covers the period from Oct 1, 2017, to Sept. 31, 2018. In the early hours of Nov. 22, 2017, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services published in the *Federal Register* a numerical limit of 9,998 for the CW-1 program, down from 12,998. Previous CW-1 caps saw reductions of only one slot over the years.

The substantial cut prompted Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. to rush to Washington, D.C. to seek a reprieve from the cut and congressional support for the extension of the CW-1 program, which is set to expire in 2019.

According to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the law that federalized CNMI immigration, the CW-1 program should expire by Dec. 31, 2014. The CNRA had a provision that gave the U.S. Secretary of Labor the discretionary authority to extend the CW-1 program. After one five-year extension, the discretionary authority was taken away; the CW-1 program can now only be extended by Congress.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is working with the U.S. Congress, administration officials, and a working group that includes members of the NMBAC as well as Torres and led by U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on extending the CW-1 program. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

2 Saipan's birth tourism

An indictment unveiled a complex birth tourism business web on Saipan. Sen Sun, an alleged overstaying tourist, has been charged in federal court for operating an unlicensed business that offered trip packages to the CNMI for pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth on U.S. soil.

It wasn't his unlicensed business that got him in trouble; it was his illegal employment scheme. Last Dec. 8, Sun pleaded guilty to harboring 15 illegal Chinese aliens that he used as workers to "take care" of the pregnant women.

Sun entered the CNMI as a tourist under a status known as conditional parole that allows Chinese citizens to enter the CNMI temporarily without an advance visa. Such permit does not allow them to work or to start a business in the CNMI.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was a physician who tipped off the FBI to Sun's operation of a large birth tourism network on the island. Under the scheme, Sun charged each client upward of $15,000 for services that includes round-the-clock caregivers who were or are unauthorized to work.

Saipan Tribune reported last June that a man with a plea deal with the U.S. government has exposed an alleged large-scale birth tourism business on Saipan that uses a farm to house pregnant women.

In 2014, ABC News reported on Saipan's birth tourism, three months after they sent an investigative crew to the island to look into the issue. The network reported that Saipan is experiencing a baby boom due to the number of babies born to Chinese mothers, from only eight in 2009 to 282 in 2012. In 2009, the U.S. government allowed Chinese and Russian tourists to enter the CNMI under a conditional parole program. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

3 Three killed at CUC sewer station

The CNMI community was shocked when three Filipino workers were killed while working inside a 24-foot sewer lift station of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in San Antonio last July 7.

Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola's autopsy corroborated police investigators' initial findings that the three died due to toxic gas exposure. Espinola concluded that the victims died of asphyxia due to hydrogen sulfide inhalation—a buildup from human waste.

CUC conducted its parallel investigation into the incident.

The workers, all employees of a CUC subcontractor, USA Fanter Ltd, were doing rehabilitation work on the sewer system when, one by one, they succumbed to the accumulated gas and fell inside the well.

CUC deputy director William B. Gilmore had assured the public that, despite the fatal accident, the agency abides by the rule that "there is no compromise to safety."

As of press time, no one has been charged or sued as a result of the incident. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

4 Drownings, missing, homicides

The year saw an unprecedented 13 drowning incidents in the CNMI, the mysterious disappearance of a lawyer, and three homicide cases. Except for one on Rota, all those cases happened on Saipan.

DROWNINGS. Last Dec. 19, a 62-year-old Chinese man drowned in the waters off Managaha Island.

Zhang Shizhao was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center after resuscitation efforts to revive him failed.

According the victim's son, he, his mother, and his father were in waist-deep water, when his father's mask came off and he began coughing.

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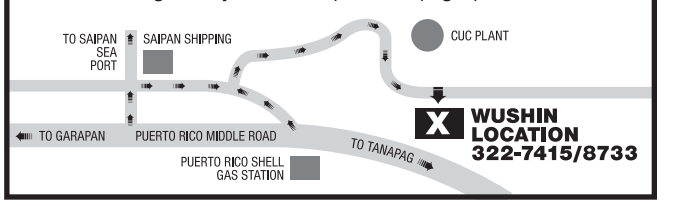

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MAGANDA

From Page 1

ers, and futons that are both affordable and durable.

Moon Haeng Lee, 76, has spent over 26 years of his life on Saipan. His arrival back in 1991 brought the first authentic Korean beddings to the island of Saipan.

Lee takes pride in the quality of the materials used for his bedding products. He said those who buy from his shop have testified that the materials that they bought have lasted over 10 years.

"I bring products that are very good material. If they [customers] buy, they say 'oh *Papasang* (the honorific for a person of Asian descent) I buy from you 10 years ago and I'm still using it,'" said Lee.

According to Lee, he had no entrepreneurial background upon arriving on Saipan. He came here solely as a referee and coach for the hotel basketball leagues.

During his stay in the Philippines as a referee, one of the most popular descriptive words he would hear was *maganda* or beautiful and it just stuck with him.

Maganda "Utang" got started when Lee saw that there wasn't any store on Saipan that specifically sold beddings.

"I was thinking about what I could make my business. I was looking and there was nothing doing like this business," said Lee.

Because Lee was also providing Korean-made uniforms for the basketball teams he coached, he decided to bring in beddings and that was the start of Maganda "Utang."

Maganda "Utang" has been in business for 25 years now and, according to Lee, the reason his business has stood for so long is because of the friendship he created with both his customers and employees.

"That's why most of Saipan's people know me; they know Maganda 'Utang,'" he said.

Lee's strategy is to allow his customers to buy items from his shop on loan (hence the term "utang," the Tagalog word for loan) and then set up a payment plans. This establishes a relationship between Lee and his customers, but, most importantly, they always come back. "They [customers] have very good credit with me; they always pay," said Lee.

Today, Lee said that business isn't as it used to be; business has slowed down significantly for Maganda "Utang".

"Now it's slow, not like before. Business went down about 20 percent or almost 30 percent," said Lee.

Another secret to the longevity of Maganda "Utang" is that the shop isn't limited to just one ethnic group. Lee said he ensures that he establishes the same customer relationships with Filipino customers, Chamorro customers, Carolinian customers, Japanese customers, Chinese customers, etc.

Lee's advice to all aspiring entrepreneurs is to make sure that the products they are selling are of good quality, be as kind as they possibly can, and be patient while thoroughly explaining why their products are worth buying.

"You must have good quality, you must be very kind, and explain well," he said.

Lee said Maganda "Utang" is only exclusive to Saipan because he wanted only to establish a business that could provide him with a comfortable life and he is most comfortable on the island.

"I continue to do this to make enough only for a life I can enjoy and on Saipan, I really enjoy," he said.

Moon Haeng Lee display the assortment of beddings sold at the Maganda "Utang" shop in central Garapan. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

NMI

From Page 1

Nations World Tourism Organization's World Tourism Barometer. The report indicated that the CNMI's tourism arrivals grew by 37.3 percent, with 531,000 visitors, in 2016.

The Korea market is ranked as a top performing source market, China and Taiwan as the second largest source, and Japan ranking third after being marked as the top source market many years ago.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, fiscal year 2017 closed with a huge influx of tourists, marking an arrival of 653,150 tourists and resulting in a 30-percent increase in arrivals over fiscal year 2016. This is the fourth highest fiscal year arrivals in the CNMI's history, the record being 726,690 in fiscal year 1997.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said that for the last 18 months, arrivals have been consistently up.

Arrivals from Korea increased 30 percent in September to 25,691 visitors. Korea was also the top-performing market for the year, registering a 66-percent growth rate to comprise over half of all visitors.

Another factor for the CNMI tourism success is accessibility. Currently, the carriers that fly people in and out of the CNMI are Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air, HK Express, HK Airlines, Beijing Capital, T'Way, Eastar, China Eastern, and Philippine Airlines. Nine of the carriers fly direct from Korea to Saipan and China to Saipan.

Due to the arrival of thousands of tourists, hotel occupancy rose to 90 percent average among the 11 member hotels of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands in fiscal year 2017.

Many hotels, big and small, have opened and began construction in 2017 and the world famous international hotel brand Hilton Hotels and Resorts is one of them.

Tourism is currently on the upswing and considered as the economic driver of the CNMI in 2017. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

PETER

From Page 1

navigation, and the building of traditional Chamorro canoes.

In 2012, the Perezes established the non-profit organization called 500 Sails in order to execute projects that promote and enable the construction and safe sailing of traditional Micronesian vessels in the Marianas.

Emma Perez is the 500 Sails board of directors president and is also the managing director of the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD., the company set up to headline the effort to revive the sailing tradition. Its first vessel is called *Okeanos Marianas*, a 50-foot, double-hulled, traditional Polynesian *vaka motu* (canoe) built from modern, state-of-the art materials.

Perez said the *Okeanos Marianas* came to life through a friend who suggested that she and her husband get in touch with the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea.

Perez saw not only the islands' need to re-establish its seafaring traditions, but also the need of sustainable transportation. She saw the opportunities that a *vaka* could open up for the Marianas so she and her husband got in touch with Dieter Paulmanm of the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea through Skype and discussed the requirements to get a *vaka* specifically for the Marianas.

Perez said it took approximately one year of preparations, drafting a business plan, and more before the *Okeanos Marianas* became a reality for Saipan.

"It all started about a year ago. Okeanos Foundation for the Sea and 500 Sails had a Skype conversation," she said.

It takes more than just an application to be given a *vaka*. There has to be a need and the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea saw that the Marianas was in need, she said.

"Okeanos Foundation for the Sea was looking for a place where they could put a *vaka*, where there could be a company, and where the canoe could be used for sustainable transport," said Perez.

When the *Okeanos Marianas* arrived on Saipan from Auckland, New Zealand last Oct. 31, Perez was the most excited and she said it was because after exactly one year of waiting and preparing for the vessel, it finally arrived.

Perez envisions the *Okeanos Marianas* being used to bring the entire Marianas together, as well as the Pacific.

Perez has major plans for the *Okeanos Marianas*. This 2018, she and her husband hopes to get every child in the Marianas on the *Okeanos Marianas* to teach them about the importance of seafaring.

She also wants to establish a consistent travel schedule on the *Okeanos Marianas* from Saipan to the Northern Islands so that Northern Islanders will be given the chance to revisit their islands.

Perez is also in the process of training a full-time crew under the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD that will sail the *Okeanos Marianas*.

The *Okeanos Marianas* is also being eyed as a cargo ship between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and perhaps as a tourist attraction, using the *Okeanos Marianas* to represent the Marianas in upcoming festivals like the Flame Tree Festival and Tinian's Pika Festival.

Perez said the *Okeanos Marianas* kick-started the year of the canoe. Since the arrival of the vessel, individuals from all over the Marianas are starting to get accustomed to the fact that the canoes are making a comeback. "2018 is going to be the year of the canoe," she said.

The Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd is its own entity. It is separate from the canoe federation, 500 Sails, and the various canoe organizations on Saipan.

Perez will be offering rides for those interested in experiencing a ride on the *Okeanos Marianas* while the crew trains. Interested individuals can reach Perez for reservations at 285-7342. Training sails will start in January and seating will be limited.

5-YEAR-OLD

From Page 1

ing cardiopulmonary resuscitation while moving the child toward the ambulance.

The boy was pronounced dead at 2:16am after Commonwealth Health Center medical staff took over the medical personnel performing CPR throughout the transport to the CHC emergency room.

According to DPS, the child, along with his parents, arrived from Japan at 6pm last Tuesday, Dec. 26, for vacation.

Before leaving Japan and all throughout the check-in process, the victim complained of abdominal pain. Family members gave the boy water but he was unable to keep fluids down.

The victim's father received clearance from their Japanese health insurance provider between 12am and 1am yesterday and prepared to take the child to CHC, and then found the child not breathing. He then called the hotel's front desk.

Saipan Tribune contacted CHC and asked what should family members do—local or tourists—in the event of emergencies.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said the hospital is bound by the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. It is a federal law that requires hospitals to attend to anyone coming to the emergency room to be stabilized and treated, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

CHCC emergency care is provided to all who seek services regardless of age, sex, disability, religious beliefs, political beliefs, cultural background, educational levels, national origin, or ability to pay.

"We have a way to contact the insurance provider for the patient. When patients are brought to the ER, the priorities are to treat and stabilize the patient and we would ask about financials later. This goes for anyone, whether local or tourist, " Muna said

"We have a system in place where we assist the patient or family members to verify their insurance provider for them. We make communication either by call, email, or fax but only after treatment is made first," she added.

Muña said it would be in the best interest of the insured if travel insurance or health insurance providers thoroughly explain their benefits, especially if the insured is traveling to U.S. soil.

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OTHER

From Page 3

By the time they reached the shore, his father had lost consciousness and they began to call for help. The victim's son said his father had a heart bypass four years ago and he was using a pacemaker.

In another incident, search and rescue team failed to locate Kil Jun Min, a 35-year-old dive shop employee who as struck by a huge wave and dragged into rough waters at the secluded Hidden Beach in Talafofo last Dec. 5. Based on *Saipan Tribune* records, he was the 12th drowning victim for the year.

That did not include the death of the 52-year-old local man who died while fishing with four other men at a beach behind the TSL Building in Garapan last Dec. 6, as police placed the incident under further investigation.

The controversial drowning on Rota involved ocean swimmer Monte Monfore, 56, who was found floating in the swimming hole at Pinatang Park in the afternoon of Oct. 24. He was pronounced dead at the Rota Health Center.

Family and friends of Monfore expressed doubt that he died of drowning. The autopsy result showed no foul play and investigators ruled the case as an accidental death.

According to Charles "Chip" Guard, the warning coordination meteorologist for the Weather Forecast Office in Guam, rip currents are the major cause of drownings in the CNMI.

MISSING PERSONS. The disappearance of assistant public defender Jamal Saleh remained unsolved as of press time. The 49-year-old lawyer was last seen walking from his As Teo home last Oct. 3 at 1:30am. According to his girlfriend, he could not sleep that night and took a walk.

It was also in As Teo where the two Luhk sisters mysteriously disappeared at a bus stop pavilion in May 2011.

Last Nov. 2, search teams found the body of missing Joan Taitano at the bottom of a cliff near the Radar building in Marpi, two days after she was reported missing to the police.

Moon Haeng Lee popularly known as "papasang" poses for a photo displaying the assortment of beddings sold at the "Magandang Utang" shop in central Garapan

Since 1995, at least 17 persons have been reported missing in the CNMI, yet those cases remain unsolved.

MURDER. Of three homicide cases this year, only one case did police make an arrest.

See OTHER on Page 8

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CIVIC SPORT	HU231449	WHITE	$3,500
HRV EX 2WD	HM716374	SILVER	$3,000
HRV EX 2WD	HM714229	BLACK	$3,500
HRV EX AWD	SOLD	BLACK	$3,000
ACCORD SPORT	SOLD	STEEL	$4,000
RIDGELINE RT FWD	HB007371	STEEL	$5,000

FORD

	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
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MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE	SOLD	RED	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	GKF37860	WHITE	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68426	WHITE	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68428	WHITE	$5,000
F150 XLT SPORT	SOLD	RED	$6,000
EXPLORER XLT SPORT	HGC16261	BLACK	$4,000
EXPLORER XLT 4WD	GGB38168	WHITE	$6,000

NISSAN

	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
ROGUE S FWD	SOLD	BLUE	$3,000
ROGUE SPORT S 2WD	SOLD	SILVER	$3,000
QUEST SV FWD	H9170425	WHITE	$4,000
FRONTIER SV 4WD	HN762025	WHITE	$4,000
ALTIMA SV FWD	HC126488	SILVER	$4,000
PATHFINDER S 2WD	HC672614	WHITE	$5,000
TITAN SV 4WD	HN549603	SILVER	$6,000
ARMADA SV 4WD	H9503293	SILVER	$6,000

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SOUL LX FWD	H7497104	ORANGE	$2,000
SOUL LX FWD	SOLD	GREEN	$2,500
RIO FWD	G6591553	RED	$2,500
RIO LX FWD	H6034826	YELLOW	$3,000
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OTHER

From Page 6

The death of security guard Jim Nimwes beside a poker arcade in Dandan has been ruled a homicide, based on massive injuries he received. Nimwes was still alive when police responded to the scene last March 16. He died the following day.

In November, the Department of Public Safety reclassified the death of Commonwealth Casino Commission employee Allan James Boyer Dela Cruz as a homicide. Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola earlier classified Dela Cruz's cause of death as undetermined.

Police responded last Sept. 22 to a report about a dead person at a house on Mt. Tapohau. Police met at the scene witnesses who found Dela Cruz's body on the ground.

Last Oct. 29, Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, 55, was arrested shortly after he allegedly attacked a couple with a knife, killing the woman and seriously injuring her husband outside a home in Chalan Kanoa. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

5 Workers' protest

The year saw a string of protests by construction workers over the lack of payment of contractors hired by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. *Saipan Tribune* was able to cover seven instances where protests were held.

The workers, who entered the CNMI under the visa-waiver program, have been separated into batches based on their contractor. The four main contractors involved with the construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort included Suzhou Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, CMC Macau, Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd., and MCC International, who acts as the main contractor for IPI.

The first protest of the year commenced on April 14, 2017, with 50 illegal Chinese workers marching in Garapan, demanding that they be paid, be repatriated, and be reimbursed the amount they paid in recruitment fees. Two weeks later, on May 1, 2017, the protesters once again rallied anew, this time with even more people going against Gold Mantis. It was reported that there were 91 workers under Gold Mantis that were asked to stop working and were docked pay. On the early hours of May 10, 2017, it was reported that Gold Mantis and the U.S. Department of Labor struck a deal, which the former would shoulder the expenses of the workers' repatriation. Each worker was paid from $10,000 to $20,000, depending on the wages owed them.

Another protest occurred sometime in June 2017. This time, the workers of the other three contractors came out in protest. A total of 43 workers claimed to not have been paid. Since June 2017 up to now, the numbers of workers have diminished; about seven workers have yet to be paid. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

6 Education chief fired

Barely a year since her appointment as Education commissioner, Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero was unanimously terminated by the Public School System's Board of Education effective last Nov. 5. No explanation was provided to the public about her termination except that Board of Education chair Marylou Ada said the reasons were "personnel matters that are very confidential."

Deleon Guerrero, as the sole employee of the CNMI Board of Education, headed the Public School System, which has over 2,000 employees and 10,000 students. Deleon Guerrero was hired in 2016. There were conjectures that discrimination may have played a role in Deleon Guerrero's termination, which Ada was quick to deny. Glen Muña currently sits as acting education commissioner. Ada said Muña is very capable and he will sit in as acting COE until they hire a new one to fill the post. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

7 CHCC hikes rates

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. increased its fees and charges for room and board, effective Oct. 4, 2017.

CHCC said the adjustment was necessary to keep up with the increasing costs of healthcare services in the CNMI. The last time the Commonwealth Health Center revised its charges for room and board dates back to 2012.

"A big factor in the increase was the lack of funding from the CNMI government. CHCC was not able to get the needed support from the Legislature to take care of the cost of healthcare for fiscal year 2018. To keep up with utility costs, we had to take care of it as the government has not fulfilled the requirement of providing those funding to CHCC," CHCC CEO Esther Muña was quoted as saying.

Muña pointed out that the rate hikes could have been avoided. "We knew it was coming and we were prepared for it. But we waited to see if the budget appropriation [of the Legislature] was going to come and it did not," she said. The room rates increase was authorized by the fee schedule signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Oct. 4.

For fiscal year 2018, CHCC had asked for a budget of $22 million—$16 million for indigent care from the CNMI government and $6.2 million from the federal government through Medicaid. Instead, the

See OTHER on Page 12

Man who shot wife faces 4 charges

Probable case has been established in the case of a man who shot his wife in their home in Kagman last Dec. 16.

During a preliminary hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Wednesday, Norbert Blas Camacho was charged with attempted first-degree murder (domestic violence), aggravated assault and battery (domestic violence), assault with a dangerous weapon (domestic violence), and disturbing the peace (domestic violence).

After the court heard testimonies presented by the government's witnesses and based on matters cited at the hearing, probable cause was established.

Arraignment is set on Jan. 8, 2018, at 9am before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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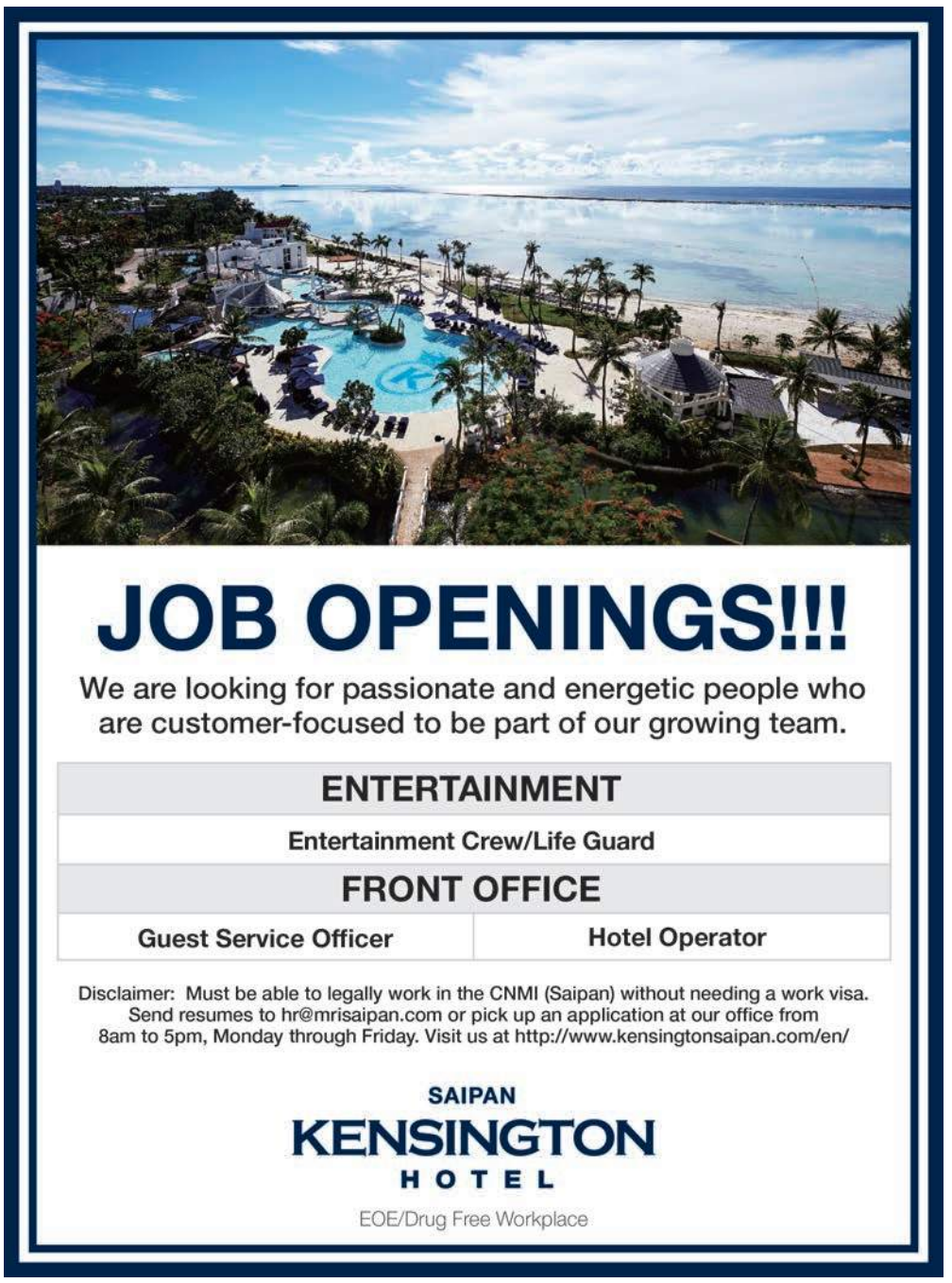
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BEFORE THE YEAR ENDS

$7M allotted to CHCC

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has allocated $7 million to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

According to committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the allocation came from two bills from the supplemental budget and delegation committee.

"In the supplemental budget, we provided $3.5 million to CHCC, then I also have a bill on the local level that we acted on Dec. 15 in the delegation committee which will give CHCC another $3.5 million for equipment. When you put those bills together, we are looking at about $7 million for CHCC," he said.

"In one of those two bills, there is an allocation of $3 million for indigent care. We know they need about $7 million but we are giving them $3 million first and, hopefully, in subsequent supplemental revenues we will continue to get to that number of $7 million to make sure that indigent care is 100 percent funded," he added.

For fiscal year 2018, CHCC had asked for a budget of $16 million for indigent care from the CNMI government.

Demapan expressed that funding indigent care in the hospital is the priority of the Ways and Means Committee.

"We know that $16 million is CHCC's projected budget but I believe $7 million is the actual figure that they have given us," he said.

"If they get the $7 million for indigent care that would take care of a lot of unfunded liabilites," he added

According to CHCC board chair Lauri Ogumorro funding is a big issue for the hospital.

"We don't have enough funds to run a hospital. Healthcare is just as vital as teaching our children public safety. If you don't have a good healthcare for your children it all has to work together," she said.

"There is some kind of disconnect and it's always been an issue. Hopefully we will do more and better," she added.

Last October, CHCC was pushed to increase room rates in the hospital to keep up with utility costs because the funding from Legislature did not come.

"The people of the CNMI deserve great healthcare. Funding for CHCC should be a priority," CHCC CEO Esther Muña said.

OTHER

From Page 8

CNMI government allocated a budget of just $825,299 to CHCC.

Just recently, the Legislature allotted $7 million from the supplemental budget to CHCC and another $3 million was pledged for indigent care. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

8 CJMT talks shelved, Tinian divert pushed

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a trip to Washington, D.C., urged U.S. Department of Defense assistant Secretary Lucian Niemeyer to shelve for the meantime talks of the Commonwealth Joint Military Training Program and to push instead for the Tinian Divert Airfield. The request was approved on Nov. 4, 2017.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, even prior to DOD's official approval, it was the understanding of the Torres administration at the time that the DOD agreed with Torres' position on the matter.

On Oct. 31, 2017, the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors unanimously approved the U.S. Air Force's layout plan for the Tinian divert airfield. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

‘Travel with CEO’ produces two Marianas episodes

Talent and crew of China’s “Travel with CEO” enjoy lunch at Hard Rock Café on Dec. 10, 2017, as part of their location shoot in the Marianas. MVA

China’s “Travel with CEO” has produced two episodes on the Marianas following the television show’s filming in Saipan and Rota earlier in December.

“Travel with CEO” highlighted the first-ever Marianas International Film Festival and the annual Christmas in the Marianas during its filming, with the resulting episodes targeting highly educated upper and middle-class viewers.

“‘Travel with CEO’ has been working with the Marianas Visitors Authority since the first announcement of the Marianas International Film Festival to do a feature on the event and the destination in general. This is quite a compliment, as the production film has also filmed the world-renowned Cannes Film Festival,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “In particular, show anchor Shi Wei reportedly had a great time on Rota with his local guides, learning to husk a coconut, weaving coconut fronds, and enjoying the water at Rota Swimming Hole. Our guides were able to show that for people living in busy and crowded cities, Rota is definitely a quick getaway worth taking.”

“Travel with CEO” is produced by Hu Jin Media and is a financial and travel reality show, which airs on YICAI Shanghai TV. Since its inception three years ago, the show has been to more than 50 countries and 100 destinations and has had more than 200 guests. At the China Radio and Television and New Media Innovation Forum presented by China Media Industry Association, “Travel with CEO” was awarded “Impact Chinese Media - Innovative Program” in 2015 and “Impact Chinese Media - Influential Program” in 2016. The estimated advertising exposure value for the Marianas from the show is $140,000.

Local eateries featured included Tony’s Seafood, Bubba Gump Shrimp, Kinpachi Restaurant, Rota BBQ Restaurant, Capricciosa’s, Hard Rock Café Saipan, and Sichuan Restaurant. Other sites and attractions filmed include various local beaches, Stars & Stripes dinner cruise, a UTV ride, SeaTouch marine encounter, a diving tour, Garapan Street Market, Songsong Village Lookout, Rota’s Japanese-era sugar mill and train, Rota’s West Harbor, Tweksberry Beach, and Senbon Yashi coconut plantation. The group lodged at Grandvrio Resort Saipan. ***(MVA)***

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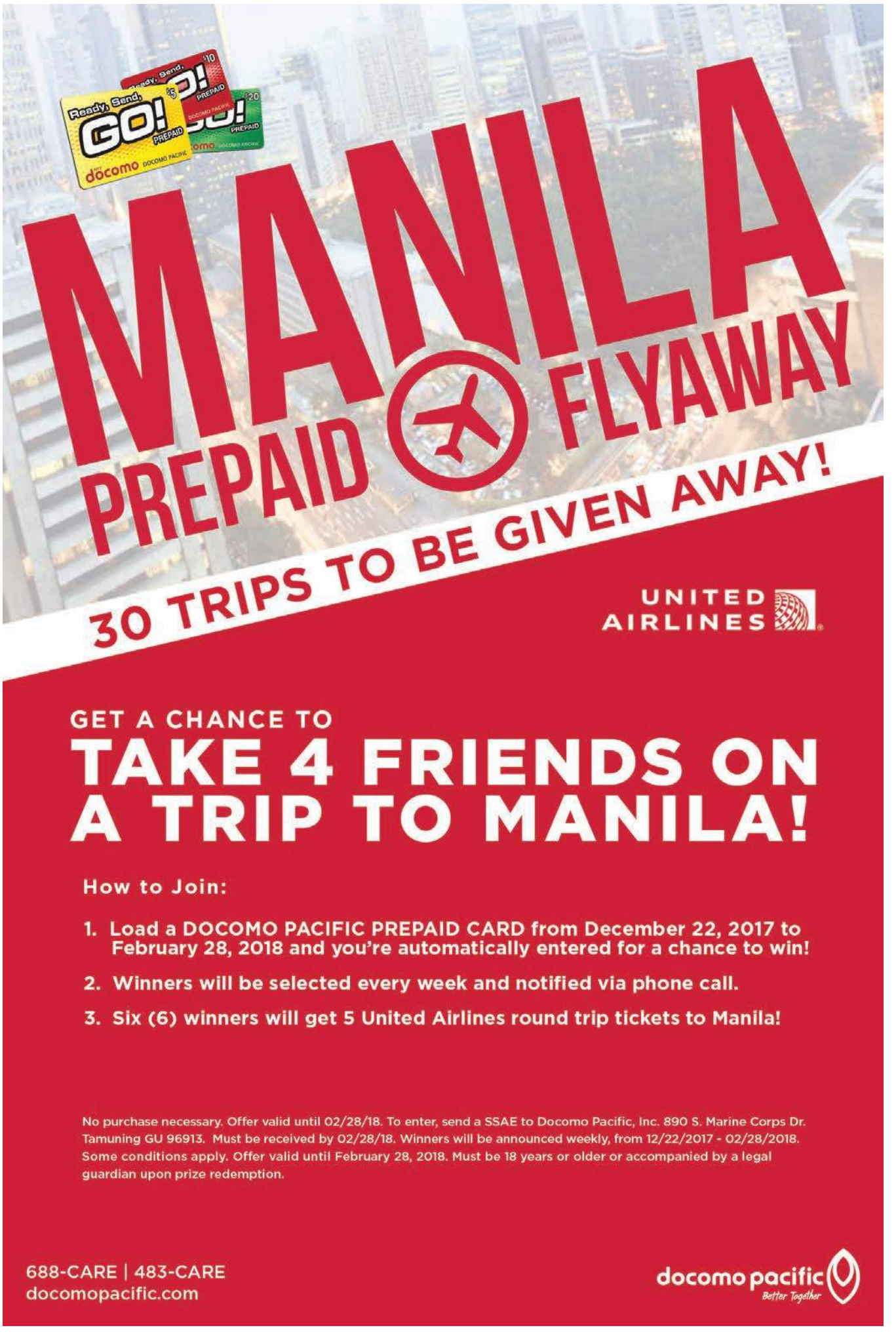
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Best wishes for 2018

By AMY KOSS
Los Angeles Times

Amy Koss writes young adult fiction.

Year One of the Trump era has rattled my bones in so many new and unpleasant ways that I don't know how to brace for 2018. It's like a recurring nightmare of mine: I'm falling from a great height, trying to position myself to minimize the impact. The instant I realize there is no such position, I wake in a sweat. But when I asked 89-year-old Elaine—my mom's neighbor at what I'll call the Jewish Home for the Aged—about her "hopes and expectations" for the country in 2018, she said, "I'm not afraid of the direction it's going. I'm not fond of Trump but we have a younger generation that's wise: my grandkids and their generation. They'll resolve this."

Surprised by Elaine's optimism, I leaned past her and asked Morrie the same question.

"Personally," he said, "I'm looking forward to my 95th birthday. For the country, I believe things will get better. Donald's learning a lot as he goes along. I'm the only Republican here, but I don't mention it, to keep everyone's blood pressure calm."

Susan, one of the youngest residents, in fashionable glasses and dark lipstick, said, "I just want peace." So did Miriam, Rhea and Pat.

In an attempt to include my mom in the conversation, I asked her next. "As long as my family is healthy, " she answered, as expected.

Then Mary, the program director, called for our attention: Time for chair exercises.

At lunch, I sat with Shirley, Francis and Henny and asked them the hopes and expectations question.

"People who voted for Trump will again," Shirley said. "I think he's dangerous to human rights. I'm 101, I don't know if I'll live to the next election. But I'm not the oldest one here."

"She's the smartest, though," Henny said.

"Well, I've lived a long time," Shirley said. "We lived in an upstairs flat on one of the unrestricted streets in Detroit. Just one block over was where no Jews could live. When my son was 3—he's 79 now—he came home from playing outside and asked, 'Am I a dirty Jew?' And I said, 'Yes, you're a very dirty Jew when you don't take a bath.' That's when I started volunteering for the Anti-Defamation League.

"I never experienced anti-Semitism," Frances, 96, offered. "I lived in a small town with only four Jewish families, but never."

"I'm from Germany," Henny said. "So need I tell you? I lived one year under Nazi occupation then got out. I came here when I was 12."

"Henny makes the most divine mandel bread," Frances

See BEST on Next Page

Flying a desk

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

One task that's been hanging over my head is to improve the ergonomics of my office area. I haven't found any furniture that looks promising. I considered having furnishings custom-made, but, at least in my case, "build to suit" means built to suit the builder's preferences, not mine. I'm not up for debates with guys who have sharp implements hanging from their belts. With no solution in sight I just gave up on the whole idea.

Maybe I should have contacted Airbus. That's sort of how this whole notion got started. When I took a job flying an Airbus I realized that the aircraft was more comfortable than my home office is. That airplane spoiled me.

And so, back at my home office, flying my desk for my groundborne duties, I aspired to full cockpit efficiency.

In theory, there's no reason that a desk worker can't have, say, a laser printer, paper, envelopes, labels, calculator, reference books, and other essential things within arm's reach. Sure, the essential items might change from person to person, but I don't think the overall concept does.

However, as I mentioned, actually bringing the concept to life was proving to be elusive.

Then a funny thing happened: I bought an old four-wheel-drive pickup.

The truck sparked a do-it-yourself chain of events. Forest fires start the same way. So, too, do many diseases.

As for the truck, the first order of business was to remove its fiberglass camper shell. The shell was missing one window. It also had a few little cracks in it. I didn't want the thing. I set it atop some concrete blocks in the mud as a prelude to disposal. But my wife, who berates me for my wasteful American ways, insisted that we repair it.

I soon found that a shell in the mud is a very awkward thing to address. So I decided to build a stand that will allow us to work on the shell's inside and the outside without being hunched over. A visit to the hardware store yielded lumber, a cordless drill, a circular saw, and related accouterments.

Of course, if you really want to get anything done, the clean aisles of retail stores are mere gateways to the dark alleys of scrounging and improvising.

The garage soon become a backwater workshop with old shipping pallets, scrap lumber, and a motley assortment of rusty C-clamps; this was all cobbled together as makeshift jigs for cutting.

If you ask me if this approach is necessary for building things, well, I have no idea if it is or not.

And if you ask me if I know what I'm doing, the answer is "no."

However, the stand went together as planned. Moreover, so, too, did a trussed rig I built that mounts in the pickup truck bed for hauling and dispensing gravel for driveway repair.

The rig actually worked. It didn't tear loose from its mountings, it didn't maim anyone, and, most important of all, it didn't scratch my "new" truck. This was the highlight of 2017 around here.

And to think the rig only cost me $315 in materials and one week of time to construct and use. By contrast, hiring somebody with the proper equipment to repair the driveway would've cost about $200 and would have taken a half-day.

Talk about true genius, eh?

But you don't have to be a genius to know that a pound of gravel weighs more than a pound of feathers. Gravel is heavy. The first syllable also matches the term "gravity." Coincidence? I think not.

Not only is gravel heavier than feathers, it's also heavier than printers, envelopes, and reference books.

With this in mind, with a smooth driveway that's the envy of the neighbors, and with a camper shell in the process of rehabilitation, I pulled out my sketchbook and started designing my office space.

That's right; I'm building my cockpit-efficient furnishings myself. I'm aiming for basic functionality here. Aesthetics can wait for some other year.

Meanwhile, as for this year, I'm now on a first-name basis with the local power tool salesman. The cashier at the hardware store knows me by sight. And, in fact, just yesterday, the manager even came up and introduced himself. He said he always likes to meet the larger accounts in person.

I am, at present, mid-stream in the project. The components have been cut in the garage. They'll be assembled in the office later this week.

With any luck I'll be flying into the new year with total workspace efficiency.

As nice as that thought is, I'll admit that nothing is perfect. For example, the property will have to be sold in order to pay off the hardware store. But let's look on the bright side: A driveway in good repair will help command a good price at the bankruptcy sale, and, with the camper shell almost fit for service, we'll soon be able to move into the truck.

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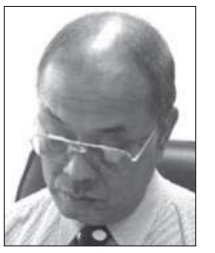
Old paradigms are history



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Next year marks the 40th year of self-government on the islands. The lowering of this year's curtain is just as good a time to reflect upon our journey. It's good to know our whereabouts and shifts in the way things are done that have changed dramatically.

A friend and I have paced these shifts, knowing full well what happens when the winds of change blows. It requires sturdy and steady footing in order to do the right thing by doing them right. It's about purposeful and meaningful flexibility. But we've been derailed by our own inability to stay focused. Has representation of "we the people" stayed the same or has influence of sort compromised it?

■■■

The lifeblood of this community is economic diversification. It's dangerous limiting it to casino or tourism. The single pathway we now travel on is woefully fragile and dangerous. Do we have serious plans to lure Nippon investments to our shores once more? Or are we still wrapped in complete disorientation?

As Nippon investments contracts to near permanency, we keep repeating the NMI's need for it yet we haven't set the framework to factually address such need from both ends of the equation. There's the obvious lack of definition and resolve.

Clash: Need the power clash between our country and China play out for us to understand its ramifications here now reliant on Chinese tourists?

■■■

In 1993, we told the U.S. Congress no more grant funds! We were generating more than our share of revenues. Then we stumbled into the quicksand of iffy financial posture as a result of misappropriation, miscalculation of resources, and lack of resolve to plan for our future. We're now trying to figure out not only "where is north" but "what is north?" Where did we drop vision and conviction, the recipe for steady building of an economic foundation?

■■■

We learned the new legislative mathematical formula of 156 percent plus 36 percent equals 80 percent! Reviewing basic math is an exercise in futility. PSS ought to check this out.

■■■

Did we make progress strengthening the institutions of government? We did, though given the protracted nature of a democracy and the numerous mishandling of state affairs reactions would be mixed, if not despondent!

The NMI succeeded in the institution of self-government since 1978. The Constitution was written and approved the year before. We've since elected seven governors and dozens of legislators.

In 2008, the NMI was granted a non-voting delegate in Congress. Kilili has been our delegate for nine years. He's built what's known as "seniority"—expansion of influence—in committees and among colleagues. It's a plus for the islands. He's a ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Politicos: I've met revered old guards, including those felled by human frailties or power and greed. Occasionally, we see their heads pop-up like Jack in the Box, hoping their crocodile tears would appease the people they've trashed, violated and shamed.

We also had testy relations with Washington on a number of issues, the most prominent being the loss of local immigration control in 2008. It's a policy matter that perceptually threatens investment opportunities ahead. It has recently turned into the usual blame game, exacerbated by our inability to admit fiduciary failure.

Resolve: Though we run into our own bouts for failure to focus on issues, I'm still convinced we're most capable regrouping and snapping back to the task of doing things right. Discouraging the indifference to get things done right. It lends to allowing the dictates of tyranny to reign and spread its filthy tentacles all over. Call it corruption!

I'm equally wary of the powerful silent influence of firms who've turned legislators into servile lapdogs. It instantly compromises quality of representation where Da Boysis ask their sugar daddies how high must they jump even while horsing around Banzai Cliff. Why would you compromise initial commitment to help the people in your villages?

Reset? At the same time, are these signals from Washington that we need to seriously reset buttons by critically questioning if temperamental growth solely based on a single-engine economy the realistic answer to fostering solid economic foundation? With the Japanese market eventually shutting down altogether, what happens to tourism if the parole program is discontinued or CW workers permanently shuttered?

Obviously, these issues can't be treated with "business as usual" paradigm. It requires leadership capable of calling all sectors to a single room where cards are trumped to define our future. If this opportunity slips by, then everything we do hence is another round of whimsical policy decisions from D.C. Paradigms must change, now!

Profession: The journalist's lot, like a policeman, isn't a happy one. We're overworked and underpaid and an asset to our publication and considered to be only good as our last story or write-up. We also have to endure hostility or become a magnet for adversity for writing about the truth. But that is the basic tenet of our profession.

It had not been a smooth ride coming from a culture that insists you keep your views or vital information to yourself. From the outset, I wasn't ready to honor what culture imposes on this score. I broke that shell to serve as a public conscience.

Grateful that I come from a just community that gradually embraced the role of the press. I knew how tough it is exposing the political and personal sins of persons in high places and the fact that it is one of the most dangerous ways to make a living. "But only a free press can check the excesses of the powerful when they violate the public trust."

It takes tough intellectual acuity and integrity to stay the course. Yep! Have had my own cuts and bruises. Highly rewarding though the lifetime discipline to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth! *Felis año nuebu!*

LITERARY NOOK

Yearend musings

By JOEY PEPE BATBON CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Comestible Calendar

January brought the sherry, champagne, beer, and wine
February creaming chocolate fondue for valentines
March mint and lamb chops came with winds of change
April foolish speckled trout turned up in soup so strange
May greens stir fried into a Chinese cabbage creation
June brides wedding cakes walk from college graduation
July lemonade stands up and sweet corn pastknee high
August watermelon breaking open so ripe you have to try
September school bells bring golden apples in a bin
October pumpkin pies full of cloves and cinnamon
November turkeys run around in cold freezing rains
December Christmas cookies and little candy canes
As this twelve month food cycle deliciously passes
Make baking time for cookies, ginger and molasses

Yearly Pleasures of Monthly Measures

January cold spell starts the year
February hearts love devotion
March hares dream of warmth
April fools cause a commotion
May bees bumbling soon
June heat lightening for sure
July stalks of corn shoot high
August lazy day catfish lure
September apples fall in a barrel
October leaves cider going fast
November needs some tender turkeys
December candy canes don't last

Wash. D.C. Comic and Tragic Predictions 2018

Who really cares about all those political predictions
as DJT continues his shameful autocratic predilections
There will be a new best selling non-alcoholic beer called
'Lying Meadia' its slogan is,"You can't get drunk here"
The distinct possibility of hypocritical hypotheticals
Roy Moore will form a church for pedophile evangelicals
Trump 2020 campaign sends doctored footage to media
showing huge inauguration crowds in a video encyclopedia
Donald Jr. forms a legal Russian immigrant soccer team
his 'Russian Bear Rubles' mascot sells '45' vodka ice cream
Tweety will continue tweeting nonsense as he sees fit
a demagogic narcissistic bull preaching in a Wall St. pulpit
More true predictions to come soon after they take place
they are the only way my prognostications can save face.

BEST

From Page 14

said. "Did you know we've been friends for 40 years?"

The conversation veered off for a while but it came back around when Henny said, "I love America. I can't tell you how much."

"I wish it could be better for my children and great-grandchildren," Shirley said. "But I don't know if all this anger that has been released can be corralled back in."

After lunch my mom and I stopped at the nursing station where I quizzed Teresa, the director of nursing. "I know I sound all rainbow unicorn," she said. "But I'd love to see all the hatred stop."

Elizabeth, a short-term respite resident, said, "I worry more about the world than I used to. If there's a bomb heading, I want time to pray."

I gave my mom another chance. "As long as my family is healthy and happy," she said again.

While getting his blood pressure checked, Lou said, "I hope for good health for my wife; I'm secondary. And peace." I was beginning to wonder, was hoping for peace just a knee-jerk response or do people who lived through World War II in Europe know what's really important?

While my mom took a nap, I joined the women playing gin rummy and eating popcorn: Estelle, Muriel, Beverly and Estelle's care-giver, Shawnetta.

"Every generation has fears for the future," Estelle said. "I'm concerned about our president. He's ruining the country."

"Nevertheless," Beverly said, "he is our president!"

Judy walked up eating a sucker. Everyone wanted to know where she got it. Judy's husband was next door in rehab for a cracked leg. "Health is the most important thing," she said. She'd just finished chemo, for colon cancer. She was going to let it go, but her kids insisted.

At 5:30 my mom and I joined the slow march into the dining room. Our scowling table mate Sarah put five sugars in her tea and didn't say thank you to the new server, even after she asked for and got a whole new dinner, sans gravy. Sarah was a Holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia. Her sister, two years younger, did not survive. "I lived through too much," she said, when I posed my silly question. "Hopes for 2018? I have none."

Earlier, I'd asked Mary what the residents would do to celebrate the New Year. A party, she said, with games and a disco ball. Her future wish was nice, concise: "May 2018 be better than 2017." But Jodi, the physical therapist, standing nearby, did even better.

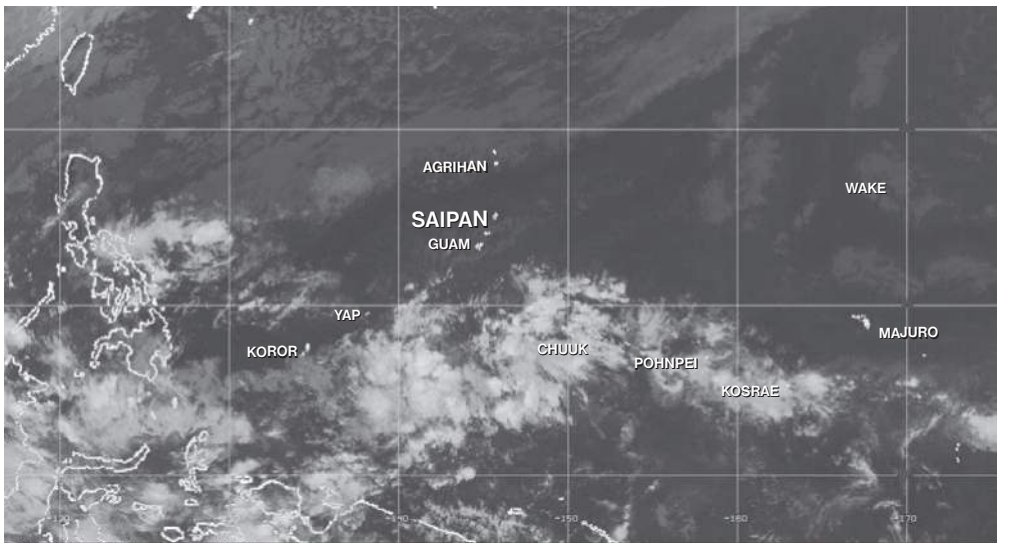
"I want the residents to get up and dance," she said. "But, please, don't fall."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Forecast remains the same, with isolated showers the next few days. Mostly cloudy skies are still expected Friday through the weekend as a slowly developing disturbance slides westward well south of Guam, but only isolated showers are expected at this point. Moderate to fresh trades are forecast to peak near 20 kt tonight, close to small craft advisory criteria, but ECMWF is 2-3 knots less than the GFS grids in the forecast. Will watch seas and wind closely, but with combined seas currently less than 7 feet at the buoys, small craft conditions do not appear likely. Similarly, surf should remain below 9 feet along east facing reefs, keeping the rip risk at the high end of moderate.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	39° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 59°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Rain	45° / 41°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 64°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	26° / 20°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Rain	46° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°
Rome	Sunny	52° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	41° / 28°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 36°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	37° / 26°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:31 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.49
9:43 AM	LOW TIDE	0.84
3:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02
11:05 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:41 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:17 am	2:22 pm
Saturday	-	3:15 am	3:13 pm
Sunday	-	4:17 am	4:08 pm
Monday	-	5:21 am	5:09 pm
Tuesday	-	6:26 am	6:12 pm

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

McDonald's Saipan congratulates main store employee Shannie Camacho, who was recognized as an Employee of the Year for her hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements. From left, Joyce Asistores, Garapan branch general manager; Marcia E. Ayuyu, McDonald's owner/operator; Shannie Camacho, Middle Road store EOY; and Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., Middle Road branch general manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan congratulates Marcus Jhay Darlucio of the Garapan branch, who was recognized as an Employee of the Year. From left, Marcia E. Ayuyu, McDonald's owner/operator; Joyce Asistores, Garapan branch general manager; Marcus Jhay Darlucio, Garapan branch EOY; and Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., Middle Road branch general manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas guidebook in Chinese launched

To improve the visitor experience of Chinese, the Marianas Visitors Authority's Chinese version of the *Marianas Guidebook* is downloadable at www.mymarianas.cn or via the WeChat public account number cometomarianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Expanding on its long-running *Marianas Guidebook* in Korean, the Marianas Visitors Authority has launched an online version of the book in Chinese this month.

The travel guidebook is uploaded on the MVA's official Chinese website at www.mymarianas.cn or via the WeChat public account number cometomarianas, for tourists to download.

"We're pleased to announce the online release of the Chinese version of our highly successful Marianas guidebook," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "From new tour operators we meet at travel shows to FIT customers on the ground here on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, it's a great, compact resource of everything they need to know about visiting the Marianas."

The guidebook features up-to-date details and images of Marianas travel information including accommodations, dining, tours, events, shopping and more. ***(MVA)***

Saipan-da outwits snowstorm

Just like Santa, Saipan-da and his helpers were busy

bringing holiday cheer to children on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day this year.

As part of its annual Happy Children in Paradise campaign and promotions for the holiday season, the Marianas Visitors Authority gave away Saipan-da backpacks to visiting children arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Passengers arriving on 15 flights on Dec. 24 and 25, 2017, were greeted by Saipan-da, Chamorritas in island attire, and MVA staff.

Over 900 children ages 12 and younger received backpacks of the character, over 100 more than last Christmas.

"Saipan-da and his helpers had to work extra hard this Christmas Eve, as flights were delayed from Korea due to a snowstorm. But it was nice to see so many visiting children smile when they received their Christmas gifts," said MVA marketing specialist Brenda Repeki, who has helped organized the giveaway for nearly 10 years.

MVA produced 16,000 backpacks for the summer phase of Happy Children in Paradise from July through September 2017. Saipan-da is a well-known, panda-like character well-received by children from all the NMI's source markets and designed to keep the destination name in front of potential visitors from Asian countries.

After nearly two decades of service with the MVA, Saipan-da has announced his plans to retire at the end of 2018. ***(MVA)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Homeless Coalition meeting

The CNMI Homeless Coalition will be having its general membership meeting on Jan. 4, 2018, 10am at the Division of Youth Services conference room in Chalan Piao (adjacent to Bank of Guam). The coalition would like to invite partners, organizations, agencies and individuals providing direct or indirect services to individuals and/or families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. If you may have any questions or concerns, contact Jacob Muna at 234-7689, 483-9447, or email jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Business hours for the CNMI Judiciary

■ Dec. 29 for Saipan, Rota, Tinian: Open from 7:30am to 11:30am. Closed from 11:31am to 4:30pm.

■ Jan. 1, 2018, New Year's Day: Saipan, Rota, Tinian will be closed.

■ Jan. 2, 2018: Saipan, Rota, Tinian hours will be limited. Essential services in the Offices of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Office of Adult Probation, Family Court Division, Drug Court Division, Marshal Services Division, Superior Court Judicial Chambers, and the Administrative Services Unit (cashier) will be provided.

The Supreme Court, Law Revision Commission, Commonwealth Recorder's Office, and Judiciary Administrative Office will be closed.

For more information or assistance, contact Deanna M. Ogo at the CNMI Supreme Court at (670) 236-9715 or email: deanna.manglona@justice.gov.mp or call Patrick V. Diaz at the CNMI Superior Court at 236-9765 or email: patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 3rd birthday to our beauty, Alexis Marie! You bring so much joy to our lives. We love you very much!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY presents
The Marianas Saipan | Tinian | Rota

Christmas IN THE Marianas

PASEO DE MARIANAS

EVERY SATURDAY IN DECEMBER
5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Dec. 30
Mochitsuki Festival featuring rice-pounding
5:30 p.m. Saipan Awaodori Team
6:30 p.m. Teul Belau Dancers
7:30 p.m. 29:11:00
8:30 p.m. FESTPAC Warriors

FREE ADMISSION AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

For more information, contact MVA at (670) 664-3200/01
or email at mva@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

/mymarianas

tinian hot pepper FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 17-18, 2018

SAIPAN MARATHON 2018
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

SAIPAN MARATHON 2018
MARCH 10, 2018
Early bird registration deadline on February 12, 2018.

PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated use of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, the implementing regulations, and the CNMI Water Quality Standards, as amended. EPA is issuing a notice of proposed action to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (no. MP0020397) to the following discharger subject to certain effluent limitations and other conditions:

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., Saipan Terminal
P.O. Box 500367
Saipan, MP 96950

The applicant operates a petroleum bulk storage terminal located at the Saipan Seaport. Industrial stormwater and wastewater will be discharged from the facility to the Seaport's storm sewer system, which in turn discharges to Tanapag Harbor at N 15 degrees 13'35", E 145 degrees 44'12". The facility is located at Petroleum Lane, Puerto Rico Village, MP, 96950.

BECQ is considering a request to certify the discharges described above, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. The certification will set forth any limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to ensure compliance with water quality standards under Section 303, area-wide waste treatment management plans under Section 208(e), effluent limitations under Sections 301 and 302, standards of performance under Section 306, prohibitions, effluent standards or pretreatment standards under Section 307 of the CWA, and any other appropriate require¬ment of CNMI law.

BECQ may certify conditions that are more stringent than those in the draft permit under its CWA Section 401 authority. For each more stringent condition, BECQ shall cite the CWA or CNMI law references upon which the condition is based.

Written comments and inquiries should be submitted to BECQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

‘CHCC board ready for 2018’

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ogumoro

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of directors finally became an official body last Dec. 16 after months of getting assembled and organized starting June.

According to CHCC board chair Lauri Ogumoro, 2018 looks like it’s still going to be full of challenges but the board is ready to face them.

“Our biggest goal is to get the community to buy-in or have ownership so they can treat CHCC as their own hospital. Once we get different committee participation, the community will have a voice and a stake in the hospital,” she said

“Another goal is to work for what the hospital deserves. The board does not have the power to generate funds but we can certainly advocate that we get what we deserve,” she added.

Ogumoro said the board was experiencing a new beginning throughout the process in trying to absorb the needs of the hospital and of the community.

“The initial goal was to get to know the staff and the players and ultimately, to become a strong advocate to take care of the hospital. It’s our only hospital and it has a lot of needs. Most of the board members are really passionate about taking care of the hospital because when we take care of the hospital, we are taking care of our own,” she said.

“I am glad that the board is on the same page and has that same motivation. There is no personal motivation or agenda and just genuine goal and that is ‘what can we do for the hospital?’” she added.

Ogumoro said that going through the process of familiarization, the board realized that there’s just a lot of stuff involved in a major healthcare system.

“Even for a small community, we have all of these federal regulations and it’s a daunting task, I used to work here for 20 years but a lot has changed,” Ogumoro said.

“CHCC CEO Esther Muña is really working hard so that the next visit of Medicare, which we anticipate very soon, will have a positive outcome. She has done everything in her power to get people to really track what’s happening and making sure that corrections and citations that were issued by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services are corrected,” she added.

Ogumoro said that other main topics for 2018 are patient safety, CMS (getting Medicare) and finances.

“We are focused on getting those things. There is also public law issues and the hospital has concerns about that. Currently, the immediate priority right now is to have a good inspection by Medicare. Once we get that, other audits will be ongoing,” she said.

“We are really just getting started because, by law, the board did not become official until Dec. 16. The time before that was spent understanding and seeing what’s going on and moving forward,” she added.

Ogumoro said that CHCC is closing 2017 on a positive note in spite of the big challenges that the hospital had to go through—finances and CW issues.

“I think I can say we ended on a positive note as we have a good working relationship with the people here,” she said. “The board is not trying to run a hospital on a day-to-day management basis or operations. We are trying to say we provide governance, oversight, and perhaps keeping sight of the bigger picture for the community.”

GRANDVRIO RESORT
SAIPAN
New Year Brunch: Reg: $32 / Local: $28 • New Year Dinner Buffet: Reg: $35 / Local: $28 on January 1, 2018
Happy New Year!
RESTAURANT TROPICANA
Amazing special menu including Ham, Rib Eye, Seafood, Sushi, Sashimi, Champagne, Budweiser...
Breakfast: 7:00am - 10:00am Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm
SUN
Breakfast Buffet $19
Sunday Brunch
Reg.: $29 (Local: $25)
Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
MON
Breakfast Buffet $19
New Year Brunch
Reg.: $32 (Local: $28)
New Year Dinner Buffet
Reg.: $35 (Local: $28)
TUE
Breakfast Buffet $19
Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
WED
Breakfast Buffet $19
Buffet Lunch
Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)
Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
THU
Breakfast Buffet $19
FRI
Breakfast Buffet $19
Buffet Lunch
Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)
Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
SAT
Breakfast Buffet $19
Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and the Signature Gourmet Food - authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki ($38) and the Osech Set ($19). Enjoy the Spectacular Ocean View and Sunset! from 10th Floor! Dolphin restaurant brings out “Daily Chef’s Special Lunch” from Mon. to Fri.; EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT! $14 only, 15 servings per day; “First In First Out!”
Opening time:
Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm
Last Order: 1:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
Last Order：8:30pm
StarLight BBQ
Dinner Buffet Location:
Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19
(Local: AD $35/ CH $17)
Business Hours: 6pm-9pm
Menu: “All you can eat & drink”
Beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.
Additional champagne
AIRI
COFFEE LOUNGE
Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set ($7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies… with unique ocean view.
Business Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm
Pizza Set ($15.00) available now!
Christmas cake now available for booking! Flavour: Chocolate
Price: small: $21 medium: $36
POOL SIDE BAR
Business Hours: 1pm-10pm
Last Order: 9:30pm
Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm
20% Discount available for all drinks including cocktails!
For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
After several weeks of intensive training, long hours of studying and practicing the Mandarin language and surviving a two-part exam, the second batch of Job-Specific Mandarin graduates successfully received their completion certificates. During the ceremony, they were joined by representatives from the Commonwealth Casino Commission, Department of Labor, and executive managers of Imperial Pacific International Ltd.

IPI hosts graduation ceremony for employees

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) Ltd. stays invested in its employees by having them undergo a Table Games Dual Rate Training Program, highlighting the company's commitment to the growth and career development of its employees.

Imperial Pacific—the largest private sector employer in the region—has invested in training and development of its employees, both the local workforce and nonresident workers. During last week's graduation ceremony for the table games training program, the company not only highlighted its dealers who have successfully hurdled the training but also recognized the efforts of the second batch of dealers who have successfully completed the Job-Specific Mandarin for Dealer training.

The Dual Rate Training Program is a fast-tracked approach to prepare dealers for future supervisory positions and for their career development.

The Job-Specific Mandarin Program, on the other hand, is a joint effort between the table games department and the learning and development team. This was established to hone and develop skills and confidence of dealers for the effective execution of their duties.

The goal of both programs is to further elevate the standard of Imperial Pacific's guest services toward providing world-class leisure and entertainment services. Imperial Pacific's investment in workforce growth and development form part of its commitment toward the economic recovery and development of the islands. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Dual Rate Program graduates hold up their completion certificates and joined representatives from the Commonwealth Casino Commission, Department of Labor, and executive managers of Imperial Pacific International Ltd. for a group photo during the graduation ceremony at the Bank of Guam building.

This year brought with it many accomplishments and many challenges. Throughout it all, we persevered as a people, and as a Commonwealth. As we enter a new year here in the islands, we resolve to continue working together with you and for you to address new issues that will come our way, find solutions to the issues affecting us now, and sustain and improve upon the progress of bettering our economy and the quality of life for each of you.
From our families to yours, we wish all of you a Safe, Prosperous, and a very
Happy New Year!
RALPH DLG TORRES
GOVERNOR
VICTOR B. HOCOG
LT. GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

As 2017 comes to a close, we look back and reflect on the blessings the year has bestowed upon us. Since 1985, it is our customers like you who continue to trust our products, our team and our service. You inspire us to keep our promise in serving you the best quality water and service in the Marianas. And that is truly a blessing that we could not be more grateful for.

We, at Saipan Ice and Water wholeheartedly thank you for welcoming us into your homes and offices and allowing us to become part of your family these past 32 years. We look forward to serving you in 2018 and in all the years to come.

Happy New Year
Biba Año Nuebu

From your friends at

Sparkle Clean
SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.
We Care About Your Health!

CALL 322.6130 /9848 /9455 EMAIL spnice@pticom.com LIKE US facebook.com/SaipanIceandWater VISIT saipanice.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9818 • Facsimile (670)236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 18-07

POSITION TITLE:	**Community Supervision Provider**
Department:	Drug Court Division
Annual Salary Range:	$28,000 - $30,000
Location:	CNMI Judiciary, Saipan
Opening Date:10/26/2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-11

POSITION TITLE:	**Deputy Clerk I**
Department:	Superior Court, Clerk of Court
Annual Salary Range:	$20,485 – $22,500
Location:	Saipan
Opening Date:12/29/2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-08

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative / HR Specialist**
Department:	Judiciary Administrative Office
Annual Salary Range:	$23,000 - $25,000
Location:	Saipan
Opening Date:12/29/2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-09

POSITION TITLE:	**Program Specialist**
Department:	Judiciary Administrative Office
Annual Salary Range:	$28,000 - $30,000
Location:	Saipan
Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-06

POSITION TITLE:	**Deputy Marshal I**
Department:	Marshal Services Division
Annual Salary :	$20,000
Location:	Saipan
Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-12

POSITION TITLE:	**Records Assistant**
Department:	Superior Court, Clerk of Court
Annual Salary :	$20,000
Location:	Saipan
Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-18

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Solid Waste Collection Services** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **bid package** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning **December 22, 2017** upon payment of **$100.00**. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until **2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, January 12, 2018**. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-18". Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

_____

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project
(Revised December 27, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 26, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). ***Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.***

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 01
December 27, 2017

DPW-18-IFB-003; Supply & Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist & Tarping System to the Lower Base Transfer Station

1. General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bed Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).

2. Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-003"**. For bidders within the NCMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:30 a.m. local time, January 05, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. local time, January 05, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 05, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 17, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

3. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, January 19, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on January 05, 2018**.

4. Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Eighty (280) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

5. Arm Roll up Style Truck is acceptable.

All other requirements of the Invitation to Bid the project package shall remain as stated.

/s/
James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Business

What to expect for your personal finances in 2018

BY SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

No one wants to be caught off-guard when it comes to their finances. So The Associated Press asked several experts to share their opinion on what will happen with some key issues in 2018 that will directly impact your personal financial well-being. Here's a look at their forecasts:

Q. What should I expect from gas prices?

A. Gas prices are still quite low, historically speaking, and were fairly steady in 2017. But 2018 may be a bit more rocky, according to Tom Kloza, global head of energy analysis at the Oil Price Information Service.

Kloza estimates the average price for regular gasoline will end 2017 around $2.39 a gallon. A typical family might consume 90 gallons of regular gas each month, so their cost in 2017 has been around $215 per month.

Overall, Kloza expects the average price nationwide to rise to around $2.45 for 2018. That's still well below the more than $3 a gallon that Americans faced from 2011 to 2014. Like every year, prices will vary greatly by region and season.

A word of warning though — hurricanes or recessions could disrupt even the best estimates.

Q. What will the job market look like in 2018?

A. The current strength in the job market should carry into 2018. This is particularly true if you are in a high-demand field like health care, technology or e-commerce, said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at jobsite Glassdoor.

"Today's labor market is probably the tightest in a generation so that puts workers in a strong bargaining position with employers," said Chamberlain.

Companies in high-demand fields should offer pay raises and other incentives to help attract and retain workers. Those not in high-demand fields may see some improvements in workplace conditions too.

Experts like Chamberlain are warning job-holders not to get lulled into complacency by the unusually long U.S. economic expansion. As economists say: times are good until they aren't. Chamberlain said this is a good time to prepare for an inevitable downturn by socking away money in savings, polishing your resume and keeping your list of work accomplishments handy.

Q. What about tax changes?

A. This is the big question mark for many. The tax overhaul bill, which passed Congress Wednesday and is awaiting the signature of President Donald Trump, would take effect in 2018.

You may see changes almost immediately in your withholdings from your paycheck. The IRS said earlier this month that it is closely monitoring the bill and expects to issue initial withholding guidance in January, which would allow taxpayers to begin seeing the benefits of the change as early as February.

However, other big changes from the overhaul — such as a lower tax rate or elimination of some deductions — won't be fully evident until you complete your taxes in the spring of 2019.

Generally speaking, the legislation reduces levies on the wealthiest Americans, while making more modest tax reductions for most others. The tax cuts for individuals are temporary, expiring in 2026. And while it doubles the standard deduction used by most Americans, that will also end in eight years.

Q. Will wages go up next year?

A. In short: most likely.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that the tight labor market is expected to remain tight. That means companies will be hard pressed to find and retain workers, and in turn, will likely raise pay.

Unemployment in the U.S. is already at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent and the economy is growing at a good clip, over 3 percent at last measure. But Shepherdson and other economists think this growth period is near its end, which is typically when the best gains come for workers.

He describes next year as the "sweet spot" for individuals to get raises that leave them feeling better off.

The only thing that could throw off this lower unemployment trend — which drives the wage growth — is if significant numbers of workers who've been on the sidelines try to rejoin the workforce.

"That is possible, but it's very low (risk)," he said. "If we were going to see a big surge we would have seen it by now."

Thousands of Puerto Rico police owed overtime call in sick

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Thousands of police officers are calling in sick every day in Puerto Rico, partly to press demands for unpaid overtime pay for hurricane recovery efforts as concerns grow over people's safety in a U.S. territory struggling to restore power.

The increase in absences recently prompted Puerto Rico Police Chief Michelle Hernandez to recommend that U.S. National Guard soldiers help fill the temporary vacancies.

"We have had an inordinate amount of absences that we haven't seen in years prior," she told The Associated Press, adding that while there has been a drop in major crimes this year, she is concerned that trend could reverse.

However, the administration of Gov. Ricardo Rossello on Wednesday rejected the idea of using the National Guard.

Normally, an average of 550 police officers are absent every day across Puerto Rico, which has one of the largest police departments under U.S. jurisdiction with more than 13,000 officers overall. But recently, more than 2,700 officers on average have been absent daily.

Public Affairs Secretary Ramon Rosario said the government has already made nearly $15 million in overtime payments since Hurricane Maria hit more than three months ago and $6.4 million more will be distributed Saturday.

Wishing everyone great joy, good health, prosperity
and happiness throughout 2018.
Happy New Year CNMI!
From Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, Members of the House of Representatives, and Staff.

Nation

AP Poll: Sexual misconduct allegations voted top news story

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The wave of sexual misconduct allegations that toppled Hollywood power brokers, politicians, media icons and many others was the top news story of 2017, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The No. 2 story was Donald Trump's tumultuous first year as president. A year ago, Trump's unexpected victory over Hillary Clinton in the presidential election was a near-unanimous pick for the top news story of 2016.

The first AP top-stories poll was conducted in 1936, when editors chose the abdication of Britain's King Edward VIII as the top story.

Here are 2017's top 10 stories, in order:

1 Sexual misconduct: Scandals involving sexual misdeeds by prominent men are nothing new in America, but there's never been anything remotely like the deluge of allegations unleashed this year by women who were emboldened to speak out by the accusers who preceded them. Luminaries toppled from their perches included movie magnate Harvey Weinstein, media stars Bill O'Reilly, Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose, and several celebrity chefs and members of Congress.

2 Trump-First Year: The controversies started on Inauguration Day, with the new president challenged over his claims on the size of the crowd, and persisted throughout the year. Trump's approval ratings hovered around record-low territory, his base remained fiercely loyal, and his relentless tweeting—often in the early morning hours—provoked a striking mix of outrage, mockery and grateful enthusiasm.

3 Las Vegas mass shooting: A 64-year-old high-stakes video poker player, after amassing an arsenal of weapons, unleashed a barrage of gunfire from a high-rise casino-hotel that killed 58 people and injured hundreds among a crowd attending an open-air concert along the Las Vegas Strip. Weeks after the massacre, questions about the gunman's motives remained unanswered.

4 Hurricane onslaught: In a four-week span, hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria ravaged Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands. Harvey killed more than 80 people in Texas and caused an estimated $150 billion in damage. Irma killed scores of people in the Caribbean and U.S., including 12 residents of a Florida nursing home that lost its air conditioning. Maria damaged more than 200,000 homes in Puerto Rico, caused lengthy power outages, and prompted an investigation into whether the official death toll of 64 was vastly undercounted.

5 North Korea: At times the taunts had a schoolyard flavor to them—a "dotard" versus "Little Rocket Man." But they came from two world leaders with nuclear arms at their disposal—Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Fueling the tensions were North Korea's latest tests of a hydrogen bomb and of ballistic missiles that potentially could reach the U.S. mainland.

6 Trump-Russia probe: Trump fired FBI director James Comey, but a former FBI chief, Robert Mueller, was soon appointed to investigate potential coordination between Russia and Trump's election campaign. By mid-December, Mueller's team had brought federal charges against four people, including former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and former national security adviser Michael Flynn. Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

7 Obamacare: Despite repeated efforts, majority Republicans in Congress failed to repeal Barack Obama's health care law and replace it with new plan. At one point, a deciding vote against a GOP replacement bill was cast by Republican Sen. John McCain. But questions remained as to how Obama's plan would fare going forward without substantive help from the Trump administration.

8 Tax overhaul: Without a single Democratic vote, Republicans in Congress pushed through a sweeping $1.5 trillion tax overhaul that would cut corporate taxes while producing mixed results for individuals. GOP lawmakers, backed by Trump, said the bill would have broad benefits by accelerating economic growth. Critics said consequences would include higher budget deficits and the potential loss of health care coverage for millions of Americans.

9 Worldwide terror attacks: The first big terror attack of 2017 came on New Year's Day—a gunman killing 39 at a nightclub in Istanbul. Subsequent targets of global terror included an Ariana Grande concert in England, a bike path in New York City and the historic La Rambla promenade in Barcelona. In October, a truck bombing in Somalia killed more than 500 people; in November, an attack on a crowded mosque in Egypt killed more than 300.

10 Islamic State: After lengthy assaults, an array of forces drove the Islamic State from its two main strongholds—the city of Mosul in Iraq, and its self-styled capital, Raqqa, in Syria. The defeats left the Islamic State without significant territory in either country, but affiliates elsewhere in the region, particularly in Egypt and Afghanistan, continued to operate.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

OPERATIONS BUILDING DEMOLITION AND PARKING EXPANSION
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-17
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for Design-Build services for the demolition and removal of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's old operations building, installation of new chain-link fence connecting the existing perimeter fence at the location where the structure is to be removed, and the design and construction of a new commercial asphalt cement parking lot expansion (16 stalls) meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Operations Building Demolition/Parking Lot Expansion – Design/Build Services"***. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (see Appendix A in SOW); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00)** shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA Engineering.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	60%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
4.	Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 7, 2017

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB18-CHCC/HA-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 3, 2018 TIME: 1:00PM

VENTILATORS FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BIDS, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 18-004
Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station on Tinian.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2017-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

SMILING COVE MARINA TRANSIENT DOCK PUBLIC MEETING

This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Friday, January 12, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide opportunity for input on proposed policies, regulations, fee schedule, and questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. Schedule assignments for Commercial loading and unloading will also be posted at this time.

Asia

10 ways N. Korean leader Kim Jong Un freaked out the world in 2017

By JIM MICHAELS
USA TODAY

For decades North Korea has thumbed its nose at the international community, frustrated successive administrations in Washington and brought the world to the brink of war. But this year, tensions between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reached new highs .

Both are impulsive and unpredictable, causing even greater international worries.

Despite incendiary threats by Trump, Kim has shown no signs of backing down from developing a nuclear weapon capable of striking the U.S. mainland. Defying international sanctions and global condemnation, Kim ended the year as he began it: with perhaps the most provocative actions any North Korean leader has taken in a single year.

New missile test

Three weeks after Trump was sworn in, North Korea tested its first missile of the year, a Pukguksong-2, a long-range ballistic missile. Kim was at the site of the launch and gave the order, according to North Korea's news agency. It would go on to launch a record number of missile tests.

Half brother's assassination

Kim's exiled half brother, Kim Jong Nam, was poisoned with a toxic nerve agent in Malaysia in February. Investigators believe the North Korean leader ordered the killing of his half brother, a potential rival.

Killing more rivals

Shortly after killing Kim Jong Nam, the North Korean leader ordered the execution of at least five senior government officials for making "false reports," according to who? what source? Kim was in his 20s and relatively unknown and untested when he came to power in 2011. He has been ruthless since then knocking off potential rivals.

Kim Jong Un

American captive dies

Otto Warmbier, a 22-year old University of Virginia student, was released in June after spending 17 months in prison. At first it appeared North Korea was making a conciliatory gesture toward the new administration. But Warmbier was returned in a vegetative states and died less than a week after returning home. He had been sentenced to 15 years hard labor on charges he attempted to steal a propaganda poster from a hotel. At least three Americans remain captive in North Korea.

Threatening Guam

Kim threatened to launch a test missile toward Guam, a U.S. territory that is home to key U.S. naval and air bases. Unlike previous missile tests aimed at nearby waters, this was a direct threat against the United States. Trump said he would retaliate with "fire and fury." North Korea did not follow through in firing a missile near Guam.

First hydrogen bomb test

In September, North Korea detonated what scientists said was its first test of a hydrogen bomb, the sixth and most powerful explosion yet. It's not clear whether North Korea has mastered the technology to place a warhead on a long-range ballistic missile, but Kim's regime has dozens of nuclear bombs.

Threatens U.S. aircraft

North Korea Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho in September said the United States has effectively declared war on his country and it has the right to shoot down U.S. military aircraft. The U.S., which frequently flies warplanes in international airspace near North Korea as a show of force, said it will not back down from conducting the flights.

Extreme insults

Kim labeled Trump a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" (an old person who is weak) in September amid an alarming war of words between the two leaders. Trump has responded with his own series of insults, including mocking the North Korean leader as "Little Rocket Man."

U.S. capital targeted

In the most recent missile test in November the North Koreans launched a missile with a potential range of 8,000 miles, putting it in striking distance of Washington, D.C. It flew higher than any other missile tested by North Korea and is evidence of progress in technology.

Shooting at defectors

The demilitarized zone between North and South Korea is one of the tensest borders on the planet, so any incident there carries the risk of war. This week a North Korean soldier defected by fleeing across the demilitarized zone. South Korea fired warning shots at North Korean soldiers later trying to search for the soldier. It was the second such defection in two months and the fourth this year. A North Korean soldier who escaped on Nov. 13 was shot five times but survived.

S. Korean president calls sex slave deal with Japan flawed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday the country's 2015 agreement with Japan to settle a decades-long impasse over Korean women forced into wartime sexual slavery was seriously flawed.

Moon's statement in which he vows unspecified follow-up measures to meet the victims' demands potentially throws the future of the deal in doubt, two years after both countries declared it as "final and irreversible."

The statement came a day after a state-appointed panel concluded that Seoul's previous conservative government failed to properly communicate with the victims before reaching the deal.

The panel also said parts of the deal were not made public, including Japanese demands that the South Korean government avoid using the term "sexual slavery" and provide a specific plan to remove a bronze statue representing sex slaves in front of its Seoul embassy. South Korea in response said it would formally refer to the victims as "victims of Japanese military comfort stations" but didn't make any clear promise about the statue, according to the panel.

"It has been confirmed that the 2015 comfort women negotiation between South Korea had serious flaws, both in process and content," Moon said in a statement read out by his spokesman.

World

Venezuelans panhandle with their useless cash abroad

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Jorge Gutierrez leaps onto a packed bus in Colombia's capital, proudly announcing that he comes bearing gifts from neighboring Venezuela.

He holds up a thick wad of bolivars— the nearly worthless currency of his crisis-wracked homeland — and then asks for a small donation in exchange for each 100-bolivar note.

"Do you know what I can buy with this?" he says as the bus rumbles down a street in Bogota. "Absolutely nothing, gentlemen."

AP
In this Dec. 12, 2017 photo, Venezuelan national Jorge Gutierrez holds a wad of worthless Venezuelan currency that he wants to exchange for some Colombian money, as he rides a bus in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017.

This creative stunt has become a common scene in Colombia as a record number of Venezuelans pour across the border in search of a better life, many of them having to scratch out livelihoods on the street.

An estimated 550,000 Venezuelans have migrated to Colombia, crossing a spottily policed 2,000-kilometer (1,242-mile) border. Of those, some 200,000 have come in just in the last six months, threatening to overwhelm Colombia's limited resources.

"No country is prepared to deal with an emerging phenomenon of this magnitude," said Julio Saez Beltran, an adviser at Colombia's Ministry of Health.

Venezuela, a country of 30 million people, sits atop the world's largest oil reserves, but has been suffering a political and economic meltdown since global crude prices fell dramatically three years ago. Shortages of food and medicine under the socialist rule of President Nicolas Maduro are dire, and Venezuelans struggle to afford basic goods and services with incomes that fall short.

With few jobs to go around in Colombia, some Venezuelans sell sweets and arepas, a traditional corn bread. Many of them turn up as panhandlers in the mass transit system.

Eager to find work abroad, Gutierrez, 32, arrived in October with his wife, baby daughter, and a backpack crammed with 2 million bolivars that he saved up.

But the stash of bills is worth just $20 on Venezuela's commonly used black market, so he kept it. And when no job offers came his way, he started hopping on buses to sell the currency as novelty items.

"In my hand I have 2,400 bolivars," Gutierrez shouts to the crowded bus, before talking about Venezuela's dire economy. "A pound of sugar costs 80,000 or 90,000 bolivars ... the salary of a Venezuelan is 40,000 weekly."

It works. Selling bolivar notes can earn him roughly $20 in a day — the same amount of cash he brought to Colombia in his backpack.

Still, Colombian officials fear the mass migration of Venezuelans will take a toll on this country, which struggles to provide for its own people.

"If the Colombian population already has difficulties getting access to basic services, with another 600,000 people, it is going to be very difficult," said Jozef Merkx, the country representative of the United Nations.

Officials fear the inflow from Venezuela isn't slowing, and see little hope for an end to Venezuela's deepening troubles, which include an inflation rate expected to top 2,000 percent by the end of the year.

Noe Bustillos, 24, also recently fled Venezuela's crisis. She arrived in Colombia five months ago with her husband and baby and raised money by selling bolivars on buses until the family's supply ran out.

Explosion injures 10 at St. Petersburg supermarket

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—At least 10 people were injured Wednesday by an explosion at a supermarket in St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city and the site of a deadly subway bombing this year.

The Investigative Committee, the nation's top investigative agency, said a device containing 200 grams (7 ounces) of explosives went off at a storage area for customers' bags. It said the device was rigged with shrapnel to cause more damage.

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion at a branch of the Perekrestok supermarket chain in the city's northwest Kalininsky district.

Alexander Klaus, the chief of the local branch of the Investigative Committee, said 10 people were hospitalized with injuries.

Andrey Kibitov, a spokesman for St. Petersburg's governor, tweeted that the injured were in satisfactory condition and one had been discharged from the hospital.

A criminal investigation was launched.

While officials stopped short of branding the explosion as a terror attack, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee that oversees anti-terror efforts in Russia said it was coordinating the search for suspects.

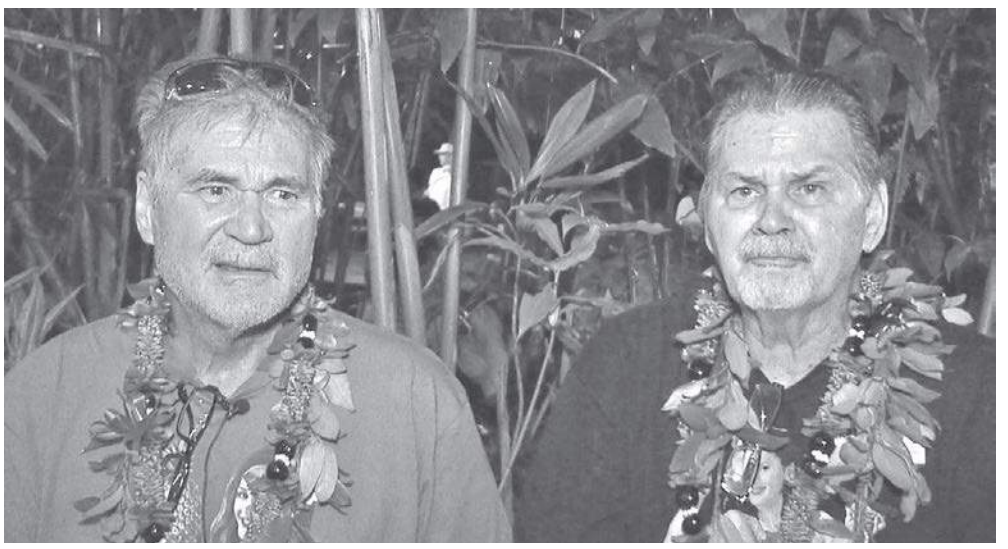
Viktoria Gordeyeva, a St. Petersburg resident who walked past the supermarket shortly after the explosion, said people were afraid to enter other stores in the area.

"There was no panic, but people were reluctant to enter a nearby drug store and a grocery store," Gordeyeva said.

Another local resident, Marina Bulanova, a doctor, heard the explosion and rushed to the market to help treat anyone who might be hurt. She said ambulance crews already had taken those injured to city hospitals by the time she got there.

Off The Wall

Best friends discover they're brothers



KHON VIA AP

In this Dec. 23, 2017, image made from a video provided by Honolulu news station KHON, Alan Robinson and Walter Macfarlane are interviewed in Honolulu.

HONOLULU (AP)—Two Hawaii men who grew up as best friends recently learned that they're actually brothers and revealed the surprise to family and friends over the holidays.

Alan Robinson and Walter Macfarlane have been friends for 60 years. Born in Hawaii 15 months apart, they met in the sixth grade and played football together at a Honolulu prep school.

Macfarlane never knew his father, and Robinson was adopted. Separately, they sought answers about their ancestry.

Macfarlane turned to family history and DNA-matching websites after unsuccessful searches on the internet and social media, Honolulu news station KHON-TV reported .

"So then we started digging into all the matches he started getting," said his daughter, Cindy Macfarlane-Flores.

A top match—someone with identical X chromosomes—had the username Robi737. Robison›s nickname was Robi and he flew 737s for Aloha Airlines, Macfarlane-Flores said.

It turned out Robinson used the same website to find answers about his family. They later learned they have the same birth mother.

"It was a shock," Macfarlane said.

They revealed the relationship to friends and family during a party Saturday night.

"It was an overwhelming experience, it's still overwhelming," Robinson said. "I don't know how long it's going to take for me to get over this feeling."

They have plans to travel and enjoy retirement together.

"This is the best Christmas present I could ever imagine having," Robinson said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Stylist accused of giving man unwanted 'Stooges' hairdo

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Police in Madison, Wisconsin, arrested a hairstylist after he gave a customer a very unwanted Larry Fine hairdo. Police spokesman Joel DeSpain says the 22-year-old victim told officers the stylist asked him to stop fidgeting and moving his head during the Friday haircut. The Wisconsin State Journal reports that DeSpain says the stylist then nicked the customer's ear with his clippers before running them down the middle of the man›s head on their shortest attachment, "leaving him looking a bit like Larry from 'The Three Stooges.'" DeSpain says officers arrested the 46-year-old hairstylist, Khaled A. Shabani, who pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct Wednesday. DeSpain says Shabani told officers it was an accident.

Officer rescues snowy owl from prison barbed wire

HUNTINGDON, Pa. (AP)—A resourceful Pennsylvania wildlife conservation officer has helped to engineer a daring prison escape. A snowy owl that had become trapped in barbed wire in a perimeter fence at the Smithfield prison in Huntingdon was rescued on Christmas Day. Pennsylvania Game Commission officer Amanda Isett used a crate, a net and an Army blanket to coax the bird out. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports the owl escaped with only some minor skin tears and a few missing feathers. The owl is being treated at Centre Wildlife Care in Port Matilda, near Penn State University. The juvenile male owl is expected to make a full recovery and will be released once its feathers grow back.

Family welcomes 2nd Christmas Eve baby

STONY BROOK, N.Y. (AP)—For one suburban New York family, Christmas Eve is turning into a tradition of very special deliveries. Newsday says Stony Brook residents Jacki and Josh Grossman had their second son on Sunday, four years after their first son arrived. Baby Elliott and older brother Oliver were delivered at Stony Brook University Hospital by Dr. Phil Schoenfeld. The doctor has worked Christmas Eve at the hospital for the past 17 years. Jacki Grossman says she "couldn›t feel more blessed" than to have her boys share such a special day. She says, "It must have been meant to be." Oliver says he doesn›t mind sharing his birthday with his new brother. His mother says he ran around the hospital spreading the news.

Florida man says he punched ATM for giving too much cash

COCOA, Fla. (AP)—hA Florida man told investigators he punched an automatic teller machine because it gave him too much cash. An arrest report says 23-year-old Michael Joseph Oleksik man caused about $5,000 in damage to an ATM at a Wells Fargo bank branch in Cocoa on Nov. 29. He was arrested Dec. 22 on a criminal mischief charge after bank officials decided to press charges. Florida Today reports surveillance video captured Oleksik pummeling the touch screen. An arrest report says that Oleksik told a bank manager he was angry that the machine was giving him too much money and he didn't know what to do because he was in a hurry for work. He apologized for causing damage.

Science & Technology

NORAD takes calls from kids

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AP)—Hundreds of volunteers at an Air Force base in Colorado were answering questions on Sunday from eager children who wanted to know where Santa was on his Christmas Eve travels. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump also pitched in and took calls for the NORAD Tracks Santa program from their Florida estate.

It is the 62nd year for the wildly popular program run by the U.S. and Canadian militaries.

Some key facts about the program:

The toll-free telephone number for NORAD tracks Santa is 877-Hi NORAD or 877-446-6723. About 1,500 volunteers answer the phones in shifts throughout Christmas Eve.

The website is posted with updates offered in a number of languages in addition to English.

Updates are also posted on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

New this year, Amazon's voice-activated computer service Alexa will be relaying NORAD Tracks Santa updates through the Echo device once the function has been enabled.

TECH Q & A: How to get rid of ads, or at least some, on a free game

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: After each turn in the iPad game "Words With Friends," an unwanted pop-up ad appears on my screen. How can I stop these pop-ups?

A: "Free" may be the most misleading term in the world of computer games, and "Words With Friends" by Zynga Mobile is no exception. Although free to download, Words shows you advertisements between turns, and they can't be turned off. (Zynga previously sold an alternate, advertising-free version of the game for the iPad and iPhone, but it was discontinued this year).

Why can't you opt out of the ads? Advertising is how Words and many other mobile computer games make money for their developers. Words also uses another common moneymaking strategy called "in-game purchases," in which players can voluntarily buy "coins" that unlock special playing features.

I've found two ways to deal with the inescapable ads: Turn off the sound. Or terminate an ad by closing and reopening the Words app.

The latter method may have an added value: It tells Zynga which ads people won't watch, perhaps encouraging them to make the ads shorter.

Q: I've recently begun getting an error message from the Garmin Express app on my PC (which uses the 64-bit version of Windows 7). The error message reads: "D3DCOMPILER_47.dll is missing." What's wrong?

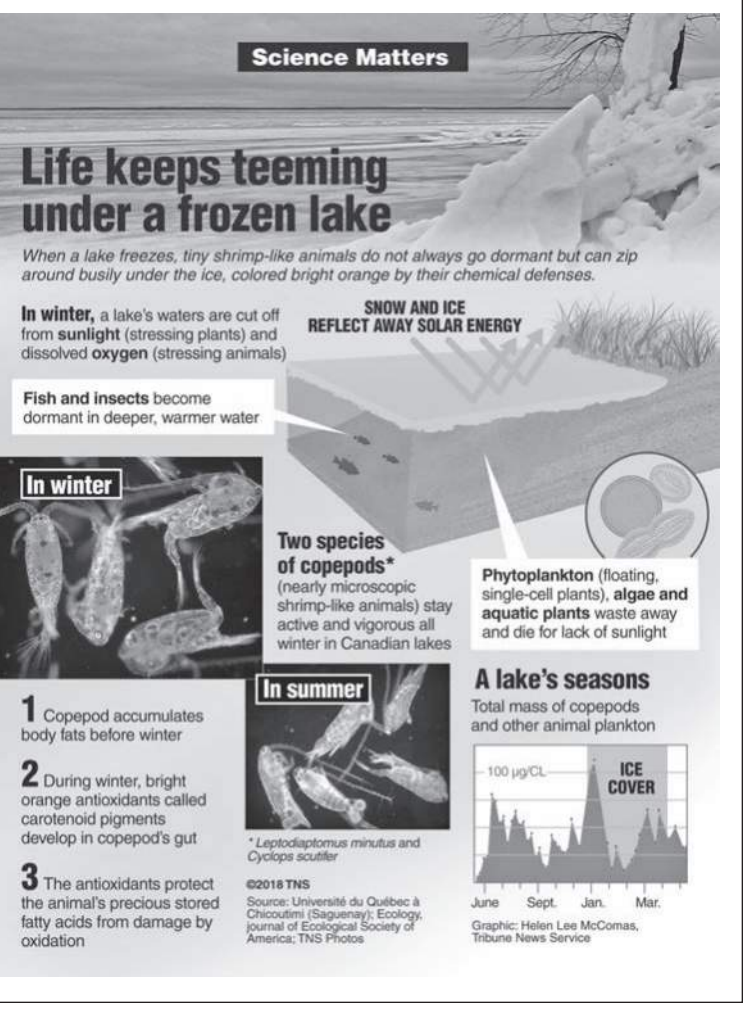
A: The Garmin Express app is designed to download new maps and software to your PC, so you can then install them on your Garmin mobile GPS devices. The app includes a piece of Microsoft software, called ".NET 4.5.2", that makes this process work.

But Windows 7 doesn't come with the ".dll" file that it needs to work with ".NET 4.5.2". (A ".dll", or "dynamic link library," file contains computer code that's designed to be shared by two or more programs). However, you can get the file as part of a free software update called KB4019990 (go to tinyurl.com/y9oyz23e and download the fifth item, called "Update for Windows 7 for x64-based systems.")

Q: When I took my laptop to a meeting where I didn't have an internet connection, the PC wouldn't accept my usual password and gave me the message, "Your device is offline. Please sign in with the last password used on this device." I tried my usual password and the password to my online Microsoft account, but neither worked. What can I do about this?

A: Others have complained about this, and noted the suggested fix often doesn't work.

A better solution is to use a different PC login process that will work whether you are online or not. Start the PC in Safe Mode, which allows Windows to run without a password (see tinyurl.com/ybdolknn). While in Safe Mode, set up a "local account," which will enable you to log into your PC next time you don't have an internet connection. (See tinyurl.com/ybad74n3 and scroll down to "solution 5.")


Science Matters
Life keeps teeming under a frozen lake
When a lake freezes, tiny shrimp-like animals do not always go dormant but can zip around busily under the ice, colored bright orange by their chemical defenses.
In winter, a lake's waters are cut off from sunlight (stressing plants) and dissolved oxygen (stressing animals)
SNOW AND ICE REFLECT AWAY SOLAR ENERGY
Fish and insects become dormant in deeper, warmer water
In winter
Two species of copepods* (nearly microscopic shrimp-like animals) stay active and vigorous all winter in Canadian lakes
Phytoplankton (floating, single-cell plants), algae and aquatic plants waste away and die for lack of sunlight
In summer
1 Copepod accumulates body fats before winter
2 During winter, bright orange antioxidants called carotenoid pigments develop in copepod's gut
3 The antioxidants protect the animal's precious stored fatty acids from damage by oxidation
* Leptodiaptomus minutus and Cyclops scutifer
©2018 TNS
Source: Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (Saguenay); Ecology, journal of Ecological Society of America; TNS Photos
A lake's seasons
Total mass of copepods and other animal plankton
100 µg/CL
ICE COVER
June Sept. Jan. Mar.
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Hollywood accusers named AP Entertainers of the Year

This combination photo shows actresses listed in alphabetical order, top row from left, Asia Argento, Rosanna Arquette, Jessica Barth, Cara Delevingne, Romola Garai, Judith Godreche, Heather Graham, Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd, Rose McGowan, Lea Seydoux and Mira Sorvino, who have made allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein. The women who initially spoke out against sexual misconduct in Hollywood this fall, inspiring millions to tell their own stories of harassment and illegality on social media, have been named The Associated Press Entertainers of the Year, voted by members of the news cooperative and AP entertainment reporters. AP

By MARK KENNEDY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

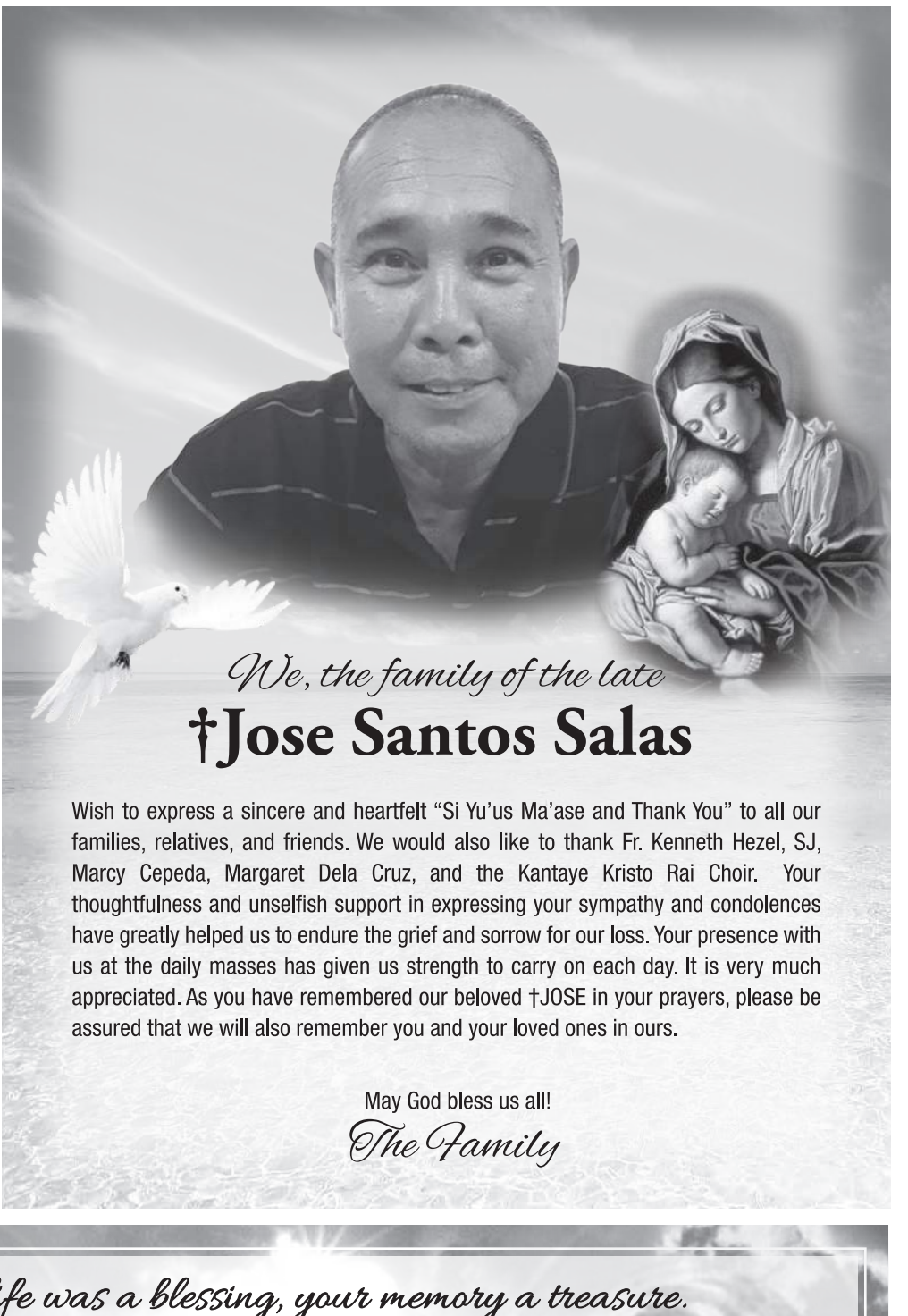
NEW YORK (AP)—Arguably the biggest thing that came from Hollywood this year wasn't a movie or a TV show. It had heroines and villains, but no script. And it went viral despite having no big publicity machinery behind it.

The wave of sexual misconduct allegations that have stretched across the country to fell prominent TV figures, chefs, journalists, entertainers, politicians and publishers was also named the top news story of 2017 in an AP poll .

The reckoning began in early October when a bombshell New York Times article revealed decades of sexual harassment against women—employees and actresses, including actress Ashley Judd—by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. The New Yorker also revealed other allegations against Weinstein.

Within days, a #MeToo movement was born and the allegations have been felt at the venerable "Today" show with the ouster of Matt Lauer to the film "All the Money in the World" from which Kevin Spacey was erased. Louis C.K. was abandoned by Netflix, FX, HBO and his new movie was abandoned just days before its premiere.

The women who initially spoke out against sexual misconduct in Hollywood this fall—inspiring millions to tell their own stories of harassment and illegality on social media—have been named The Associated Press Entertainers of the Year, voted by members of the news cooperative and AP entertainment reporters.



We, the family of the late

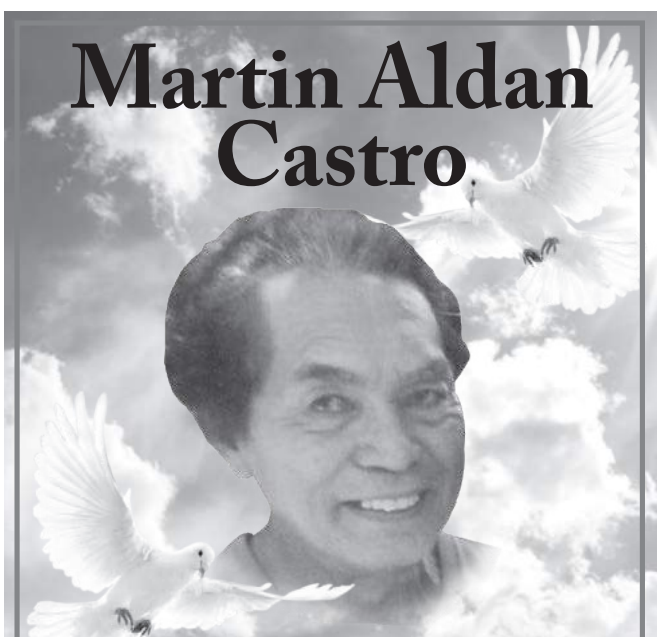
†Jose Santos Salas

Wish to express a sincere and heartfelt "Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You" to all our families, relatives, and friends. We would also like to thank Fr. Kenneth Hezel, SJ, Marcy Cepeda, Margaret Dela Cruz, and the Kantaye Kristo Rai Choir. Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow for our loss. Your presence with us at the daily masses has given us strength to carry on each day. It is very much appreciated. As you have remembered our beloved †JOSE in your prayers, please be assured that we will also remember you and your loved ones in ours.

May God bless us all!

The Family

Martin Aldan Castro



We, the family of the late †Martin Aldan Castro would like to invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved.

Holy Mass if Intention is being offered nightly at the following Parish, time, and date: San Antonio – January 3rd – 11th, 2018 at 6pm

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.
You are loved, beyond words, missed beyond measure.

†Vicente Taitingfong Camacho

April 05, 1929 ~ January 02, 2016

As we celebrate the second year of his new life, we, the family of the late †Vicente T. Camacho, would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers.

The Holy Mass is offered daily at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral through December 30, 2017 at 6:00 a.m.

On December 31, 2017, Sunday and New Year's Day, January 1, 2018, Monday, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

On the final day, Tuesday, January 02, 2018, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. Immediately after the Eucharistic celebration, breakfast will be served at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall as a token of our appreciation for all the continued prayers, support and love given to us this past year.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

RITA D. CAMACHO AND FAMILY

Obama to Prince Harry: Leaders must use care on social media

LONDON (AP)—Former President Barack Obama told Prince Harry in an interview broadcast Wednesday that people in leadership roles must be careful in their use of social media and warned against spending too much time immersed in the internet at the expense of the world outside.

Obama did not, however, directly mention his successor, President Donald Trump, who has made the use of Twitter a centerpiece of his presidency.

"All of us in leadership have to find ways to recreate a common space on the internet," he said. "One of the dangers of the internet is people can have entirely different realities. They can be just cocooned in information that reinforces their current biases."

He spoke with Harry in the prince's capacity as guest editor of the BBC Radio 4 news program. Both men said the interview, recorded in Canada in September, was Obama's first since leaving the presidency in January.

n this undated photo issued on Sunday Dec. 17, 2017 by Kensington Palace courtesy of the Obama Foundation, Britain's Prince Harry, right, interviews former US President Barack Obama as part of his guest editorship of BBC Radio 4's Today program, which is to be broadcast on the December 27, 2017. AP

Obama said he felt serene the day he left the White House at the end of his second four-year term despite the vast amount of work that remained unfinished. He said it was "hugely liberating" to be able to set his own agenda in the morning to have the time to talk with his wife, Michelle, now that he is no longer president.

"I miss the work itself because it was fascinating," Obama said of his eight years in the Oval Office, citing his health care reforms as one of his proudest achievements.

In a brief live segment at the end of the show, Harry said he did not know if Obama would be on the guest list for his wedding in May to American actress Meghan Markle.

"I don't know about that, we haven't even put the invite or the guest list together, who knows if he's going to be invited or not," Harry said. "I wouldn't want to ruin that surprise."

The Sun newspaper, a popular tabloid, has suggested that the British government is concerned that Harry and Markle may invite the Obamas but not Trump, possibly straining ties between the two governments.

Harry did say his fiancee enjoyed her first Christmas with the royal family.

"The family loved having her there," Harry said.

The prince used his position to ask Obama a "lightning round" of questions of the type normally asked of entertainers, not politicians.

The former president declined to say whether he wears boxers or briefs, preserving a bit of post-presidential dignity, but was willing to say he prefers Aretha Franklin to Tina Turner—"Aretha is the best," he said of the Queen of Soul—and favors retired basketball star Michael Jordan over current phenom LeBron James.

Obama rejected gloomy prognostications about the state of the world, saying that in many ways the world is healthier and wealthier than it has ever been, making it perhaps the best time in human history to be born.

He cited improved treatment of African-Americans and greatly expanded opportunities for young women as achievements of the past few generations that give him hope for the future.

Harry also interviewed his father, Prince Charles, who offered a more downbeat assessment. He said the root causes of climate change are not being addressed even as it caused "untold horrors" in different parts of the world.

Exhibit explores the history of China's first emperor

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The discovery in China of an underground army of nearly 8,000 life-size terracotta soldiers is considered one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century.

More than four decades after they were first seen in modern times, by farmers in Shaanxi province, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has 10 of the majestic figures on display in an exhibit that explores the history of ancient China and the reign of its first emperor, Ying Zheng.

Although various assortments of the terracotta soldiers have been displayed previously in museums in New York, Philadelphia, Seattle and elsewhere, the exhibit in Richmond also includes 40 objects never seen in the U.S., including ancient jade ornaments, precious jewelry and ceramics.

"Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China" is only being shown in Richmond and at the Cincinnati Art Museum, where it goes after its run in Virginia ends March 11.

The exhibit explores the life of Ying Zheng—who declared himself Qin Shihuang, the first emperor—and how he influenced China during his reign from 221 to 210 BC. Historians believe he ordered the construction of the terracotta army, which was buried in pits and discovered 2,000 years later, about a mile east of the emperor's burial site.

"We want visitors to learn who is the first emperor and what people's lives looked then, what technology developed during that time and the architecture of that time," said Li Jian, the co-curator.

"No matter rich or poor, royal emperors or commoners, people had a quest for immortality," she said. "These excavated objects reflect the people's lives at the time."

The first two rooms of the exhibit showcase horse and chariot fittings, arms and armor, works of art in gold and silver, and other cultural relics.

A bucket-shaped mask with an open mouth and cut-out eyes is the oldest object, dating to 3500 BC, when an exorcist would have worn it while performing rituals to ward off evil spirits and misfortune. A necklace of red agate beads and white jade pendants was a type of jewelry favored by Qin nobility. A bronze household lamp would have contained vegetable oil or animal fat, capable of burning for long periods of time in an era before candles.

Visitors encounter an imposing sight as they enter the third room: The terracotta soldiers, 6 feet tall and weighing between 250 and 400 pounds each, are positioned in individual open cases, in various poses of war.

There's the armored general, with detailed carving depicting a protective leather apron overlaid with plated armor. An infantryman stands at attention with both arms at his side. A standing archer and a kneeling archer depict the Qin military strategy, requiring one group of archers to stand and provide cover fire while another group knelt and loaded bolts into their crossbows.

Connie James, a retired kindergarten teacher from Richmond, appreciated the details as she spent a recent weekday afternoon exploring the exhibit with her husband.

"I was expecting them to look like a terracotta flower pot, but they're very intricate," she said. "For those of us who couldn't get to China, this is something very special."

Her husband, David James, liked seeing the ancient weapons used by the warriors.

"I wouldn't have imagined they would have been used in a crossbow at that time, but they were," he said.

Ex-Miss Americas asked to help find new leaders

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Trashed by emails sent by pageant officials, former Miss Americas may help choose the new leaders of the Miss America Organization.

The group told The Associated Press Wednesday night that it is seeking the help of former Miss Americas and state directors to recommend the next generation of leaders for the pageant.

In emails that were published last week by the Huffington Post, pageant officials ridiculed the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas. The emails included one that used a vulgar term for female genitalia to refer to past Miss America winners, one that wished that a particular former Miss America had died and others that speculated about how many sex partners former Miss America Mallory Hagan has had.

The ensuing uproar led to the group's executive director, Sam Haskell; its president, Josh Randle; board chairwoman Lynn Weidner, and one other board member to resign.

Dan Meyers, the group's interim board chairman, said the group wants former Miss Americas and state directors to recommend members for a search committee that would determine the organization's leadership structure, and choose individuals to fill those roles.

"The board wanted to have a process that was unprecedented in terms of openness, transparency and inclusion," he said. "Given the turbulent nature of leadership transitions, asking all the stakeholders to be a part of this process was the best way."

Some past winners reacted negatively to the board's statement, saying the board had not reached out to them about help in selecting new leaders. Others said they wanted no involvement whatsoever by any current board members in seeking new leadership.

"At this time all remaining members must step aside so we can take our beloved program back," Miss America 1977 Dorothy Benham told the AP. "They have underestimated the strength, intelligence, and determination of the women who have worn the Miss America crown, as well as every young woman who is currently wearing, or has worn the local and state crown. We stand united."

Jennifer Vaden Barth, a former Miss North Carolina, said the former winners want a completely new board to search for leaders, not one that supported Haskell.

"The board needs to accept responsibility for the damage they have caused," she told the AP late Wednesday. "They need to step aside quickly and allow new leadership to save the Miss America program."

Under the plan, former Miss Americas and state directors collectively would name four people to the search committee, and the board would name a former state title holder to the panel. These five individuals and two board members "will begin their exhaustive search in a matter of days," a statement from the board read.

There are currently two vacancies on the 14-member board, and there will be at least two more when the resignations of Randle and Weidner become effective in a matter of weeks.

The organization hopes to have the nominations in hand by Jan. 3. The board said it was notifying groups of its decision to seek their help late Wednesday night.

The emails already cost the pageant its television production partner and raised questions about the future of the nationally televised broadcast from Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall the week after Labor Day each year. Dick Clark Productions told the AP last Thursday that it cut ties with the Miss America Organization over the emails, calling them "appalling."

Vanity Fair: Video mocking Hillary Clinton 'missed the mark'

LOS ANGELES (AP)— *Vanity Fair* is trying to defuse criticism of a video mocking Hillary Clinton and her presidential aspirations.

In a statement Wednesday, the magazine said the online video was an attempt at humor that regrettably "missed the mark."

Posted last weekend, the video shows editors of Vanity Fair's Hive website offering toasts and New Year's resolutions to Clinton.

Among the suggestions: that Clinton take up knitting, volunteer work or any hobby that would keep her from running again for president.

The backlash included a tweet from actress Patricia Arquette with her own proposal — stop telling women what they should or can do.

Co-creator of 'MTV Unplugged' dies after being hit by taxi

NEW YORK (AP) — A co-creator of MTV's "Unplugged" has died of injuries suffered when he was hit by a taxi while walking his dog.

Jim Burns was walking the dog on Saturday morning when he was struck by a cab making a turn onto Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, police said. Burns, 65, suffered a serious head injury and died from his injuries on Tuesday.

The taxi driver remained at the scene. Police still were investigating on Wednesday.

An MTV spokeswoman said the network was deeply saddened to learn about the death of Burns, who created "MTV Unplugged" with Robert Small.

"As co-creator of the beloved 'Unplugged' franchise, his groundbreaking work continues to resonate with audiences around the world," MTV said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones."

Small said Burns was "a terrific human being."

"He could make fun of people without making them feel bad," Small told the New York Post. "He just had a knack for making people happy."

The wildly popular "Unplugged" debuted in 1989 at the height of MTV's musical and cultural influence in America. It features artists such as Nirvana, Eric Clapton, Mariah Carey, Jay-Z and Bob Dylan in intimate venues performing stripped-down versions of their songs.

According to Billboard, Clapton's Unplugged album sold 7.7 million copies after its 1992 debut, the most ever for the series. Nirvana's Unplugged album sold 5.1 million copies when it debuted in November 1994 at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. It was the band's first album after lead singer Kurt Cobain's suicide that year.

The music series wasn't aired as frequently during the 2000s, but it returned to the air this year, with performances from locations around the country that hold meaning for the artists performing. It premiered in September with Shawn Mendes.

Police initially said Burns was with a guide dog when he was struck, but that account was contradicted by family friends, who said he didn't have vision problems and the dog was a pet.

The dog, named Jules, wasn't injured and was being cared for by a neighbor, Burns' friend Paul Ward told the Daily News.

"Many of his friends have taken comfort in knowing that the end of his life came doing his favorite thing ... walking Jules to Central Park," Ward said.

Power restored at Disneyland after guests taken off rides

AP
In this photo provided by Dan Greenspan, Disneyland park workers stop people from approaching the entrance as the turnstiles are roped off at the entrance of the park in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Power was fully restored at Disneyland on Wednesday after an outage at the California theme park forced some guests to be escorted from stalled rides.

A transformer problem caused the late-morning outage in Toontown and Fantasyland, affecting 12 rides, park spokeswoman Suzi Brown said.

An unknown number of guests were taken off rides and no one was hurt.

Power was restored in Toontown and much of Fantasyland within a couple of hours. It was fully restored later in the afternoon, Brown said.

Mark Freeman of Provo, Utah, said he, his wife and two children were in the affected area when the power went out.

"We were in line for It's A Small World," he said. "It just went out. And they basically said, 'Everything's shut off.'"

Freeman and his family, who were at Disney as part of a three-day vacation, said they decided to go to nearby New Orleans Square to wait out the confusion.

"It was just such a mad house," he said. "It was so crowded we couldn't even get out of the park. We went and got ice cream and just sat there for probably a half-hour."

Some people wondered on social media if they'd get refunds.

Guests are warned that all or part of the park may close without notice and tickets are nonrefundable in such cases. Brown said tickets may be refunded on a case-by-case basis because of the outage.

Rihanna mourns cousin's death, calls an end to gun violence

NEW YORK (AP) — Rihanna is mourning the death of her cousin and calling for an end to gun violence.

The singer posted photos of herself with 21-year-old Tavon Kaiseen Alleyne on Instagram on Tuesday, writing that she "can't believe it was just last night that I held you in my arms!"

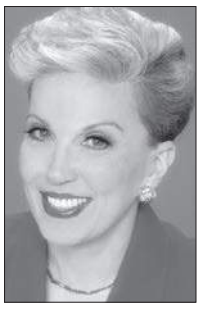
Alleyne died Tuesday after being shot in Barbados, where Rihanna was born and raised. She also wrote, "Never thought that would be the last time I felt the warmth in your body!!! Love you always man! #endgunviolence."

On Instagram on Wednesday, Rihanna posted a clip of her cousin smiling and filming himself. In the video he says, "It's nice to wake up and see all of your brothers and sisters."

Rihanna captioned the video with: "Be grateful for life man."

Patient's romantic feelings for doctor cause confusion

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I started seeing a new doctor six months ago to be treated for a serious medical condition. I respect his medical opinion and the fact that many doctors treating my condition would be judgmental and lack compassion. He has offered both.

While I appreciate his skills as a doctor, I have started to develop romantic feelings for him. I realize telling him would put him in an awkward position and possibly jeopardize our professional relationship because of the ethical implications. I don't want to move on to another doctor because I value his services. How do I get over it?

ANONYMOUSLY IN LOVE

DEAR IN LOVE: Your romantic feelings for your doctor are not as unusual as you may think. When a person needs ongoing medical care as you do, it's natural to feel vulnerable and dependent. When that happens, something called "transference" can occur. The emotions associated with one person—such as a parent—become transferred to the doctor. If you keep this in mind, it may help you to better handle your emotions.

DEAR ABBY: I was adopted at a year old by loving parents. Through a lifetime of hard work, they have become wealthy. Their generosity allowed my husband and me to buy our first home and start married life debt-free.

My problem is, their community and friends, including some of my husband's and my own, often feel compelled to bring the subject up. I always thought it was rude to ask questions about other people's finances, and I don't know how to respond to their intrusive questions.

I'm very aware of our unique situation, and I'm extremely grateful to my parents for the generosity we have received. How do I respond to friends and acquaintances when they bring up such a sensitive subject?

GRATEFUL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GRATEFUL: Remember this. You do not have to answer every question that is asked of you. When questions about your home or finances are raised, reply, "That's very personal. My parents are generous, and my husband and I are grateful." PERIOD!

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I disagree about how to handle taking our children shopping with us. I believe that, especially while our children are small (they are 3 and 5), the adult with them should keep them in sight at all times, or at least the majority of the time. If a child moves out of eyesight, the adult should find them within a minute. Are there guidelines on what is appropriate by age or developmental stage on this issue?

HELICOPTER MOM AND FREE RANGE DAD

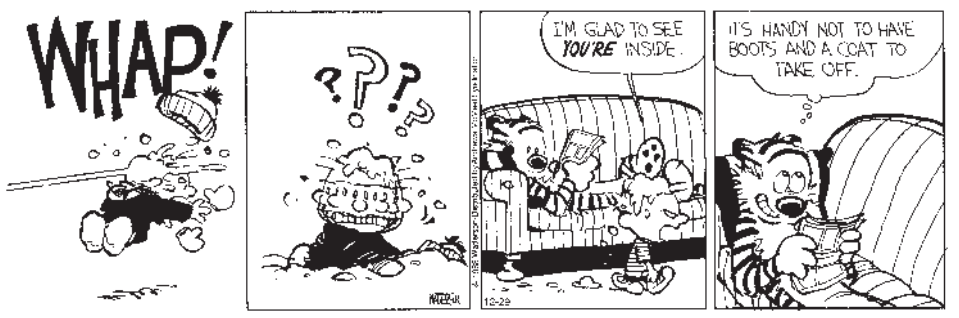
DEAR HELICOPTER MOM: Your husband is an optimist, while you are a realist. Common sense should prevail. When you take your children to a public place, they should remain under your or your husband's supervision at all times until they are aware enough that they can't be lured away by a stranger, and big enough to fight off a predator.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

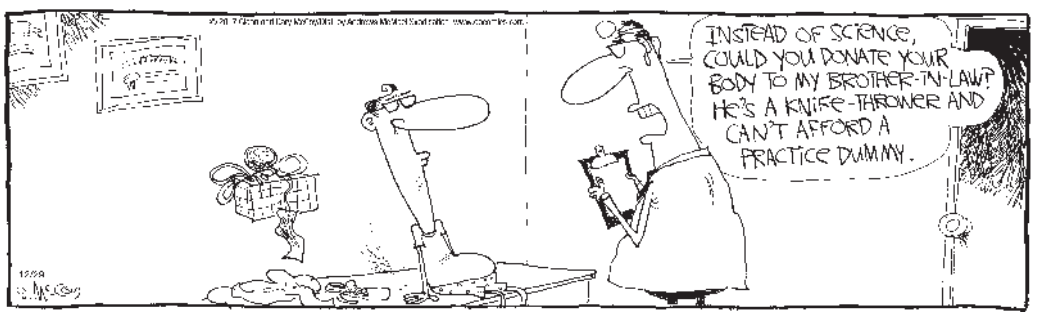
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW WAS THE MOVIE AGAIN?
EVEN STAR-WARSIER!
LISTEN. CAN WE HAVE A STAR WARS-THEMED NEW YEARS EVE PARTY? PLEEEEASE?
SURE. THAT'D BE FUN. WE CAN WEAR OUR OLD HALLOWEEN COSTUMES.
MAYBE GET SOME OF THOSE THEMED PAPER PLATES?
I WAS THINKING "BLOW UP A DEATH STAR AT MIDNIGHT," BUT PAPER PLATES ARE COOL, I GUESS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

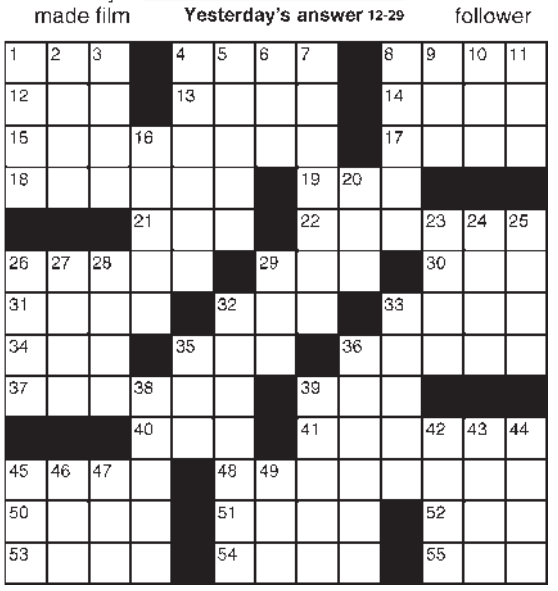
ACROSS
1 Highland hat
4 Shakespeare producer Joe
8 Bog fuel
12 Pub order
13 Mystique
14 Feedbag fill
15 Subatomic particle
17 Sugar unit
18 Sports venues
19 Request
21 Texter's chuckle
22 Styx ferryman
26 — -ski
29 Commonest English word
30 Comic Philips
31 Swerve
32 Prompt
33 Hourglass fill
34 Hosp. parts
35 Witty one
36 Privately made film
37 Lemon-like fruit
39 6 on a phone
40 Rap sheet abbr.
41 Peter in "Lawrence of Arabia"
45 Bubblehead
48 Air Force unit
50 Guesser's words
51 Ankara resident
52 Low isle
53 Paraphernalia
54 Top-notch
55 Literary collection

DOWN
1 Reveille's opposite
2 Oodles
3 Arizona city
4 Cookout spots
5 Ear-related
6 Expert
7 Flair
8 Lively dance
9 Water (Fr.)
10 Cash dispenser
11 Recipe abbr.
16 Do-nothing
20 Yon maiden
23 Peruse
24 Hotel chain
25 Protuberance
26 Opposite of "sans"
27 Actress Gilpin
28 Take five
29 Towboat
32 Card game
33 Hairnet
35 Stir-fry pan
36 Amount consumed
38 Barber's tool
39 Grieve
42 Sea predator
43 Cash advance
44 New Age singer
45 Pooch
46 Hot temper
47 Airport screening org.
49 Status follower

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	O	A	T		A	L	E	S		G	E	D
I	S	L	A		P	A	C	E		J	Z	I
S	H	O	R	I	S	I	C	P		A	H	M
T	A	T	T	L	E			T	U	N	A	S
			A	C		C	H	A	R	D		
Y	A	W	N		C	O	O		N	A	I	F
F	N	O			H	M	M		R	B	I	
P	A	L	E		A	M	E		H	Y	M	N
		F	A	T	W	A		L				
C	A	D	R	E			A	P	P	L	E	S
E	L	O		S	T	O	P	S	H	O	R	T
N	O	W		T	I	V	O		O	L	G	A
T	E	N		S	N	A	P		P	L	O	T

Yesterday's answer 12-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jude Law, 45; Patricia Clarkson, 58; Ted Danson, 70; Jon Voight, 79.

Happy Birthday: Don't get down; get moving. If something isn't the way you like, look for a way to make positive changes that will encourage you to live a better life. Focus on your health, personal relationships and home environment. Nothing is out of reach if you go about achieving your goals systematically. Your reasoning skills and hard work will bring good results. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 24, 31, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Research, ask questions and attend meetings or events that will give you a broader view of something you'd like to consider doing next year. Expand your knowledge, interests and relationships with people who have something to offer. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make plans to advance. Whether it's personal growth you are striving to achieve or upgrading your skills, go to the source and meet with people who can shed some light on the best way for you to move forward. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Joint ventures should be handled openly and honestly. Do whatever it takes to take care of unfinished business. Make an effort to take better care of your health by limiting how much you eat and drink. Don't believe everything you hear. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Any opportunity to socialize or to do things with family or friends should be taken. Expand your interests and you will encounter interesting new people who will enrich your life next year. Embrace the future with optimism. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Too much of anything will lead to trouble. Overspending, emotional outbursts or doing things that worry your loved ones should be curbed. Walk away from anyone who is a poor influence and avoid bad habits that can lead to poor health. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Think big and consider all the possibilities that lay ahead. Expand your awareness and consider how you want to live your life. Mental, physical and emotional changes can be put into play that will ensure your success and satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* People from your past will come back into your life. Be wary of anyone trying to smooth-talk you into something you don't really want to pursue. Look over your financial situation and make last-minute adjustments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let your emotions take over and your optimism grow. Greater opportunities are within reach, and partnerships will take on a new meaning. Reconnecting with people from your past will encourage you to resolve old issues and move forward in a positive manner. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Go over your finances and figure out what you owe and the best possible way to lower your debt and ease your stress. Ending the year with a positive plan will be worth celebrating. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Open your doors and host a party or event. Your hospitality will encourage friendships and opportunities to explore new possibilities. Romance is on the rise and a promise will be honored. Avoid excessive individuals and unnecessary purchases. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Getting along with friends and relatives will not be easy if you or someone else is indulgent or irresponsible. Avoid risky situations or following someone who isn't reliable. Protect against mishaps and letting others make decisions for you. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do whatever you can to help those less fortunate than you. Pitching in and offering your time, expertise and wisdom will put you in a prime position to figure out how you can get ahead professionally. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, productive and determined. You are charming and astute.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	5			2		1
			3			7	
				4			
1	5			8			
9	3					8	7
			7			3	9
			8				
	9			1			
7		3			4	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	7	2	9	8	5	1	6
6	9	2	5	1	3	7	8	4
8	1	5	7	4	6	9	3	2
1	5	9	8	6	2	3	4	7
4	8	6	1	3	7	2	5	9
2	7	3	9	5	4	1	6	8
9	2	4	3	8	1	6	7	5
5	6	1	4	7	9	8	2	3
7	3	8	6	2	5	4	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

COLLAGENASE Solution: 9 letters

G	E	S	T	T	R	A	W	N	A	V	E	N	O	B
A	N	E	A	R	L	F	H	D	R	L	I	V	E	R
N	I	I	N	E	I	Y	I	E	E	N	Z	Y	M	E
G	C	F	L	D	R	P	T	B	P	S	T	R	E	A
R	Y	T	A	A	O	C	L	N	R	A	K	T	Z	K
E	L	E	A	S	E	G	N	E	A	O	T	I	I	H
N	G	R	E	D	M	H	E	A	H	S	Ⓤ	I	N	E
E	M	E	E	S	P	U	D	N	P	E	N	Ⓢ	C	A
G	T	S	T	C	N	O	I	N	O	Y	L	R	Ⓔ	L
A	I	V	S	E	L	A	L	C	U	U	D	I	U	Ⓢ
V	S	D	I	A	L	U	G	E	L	O	S	O	X	B
A	S	T	L	B	L	S	N	R	C	A	W	T	B	O
E	U	L	E	I	R	C	I	T	O	R	C	E	N	N
L	E	N	U	M	M	I	O	Y	O	R	T	S	E	D
C	R	E	A	M	S	R	O	T	A	V	I	T	C	A

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Activator, Adipose, Body, Bond, Bone, Break, Burns, Calcium, Cell, Class, Cleavage, Cream, Destroy, Doctor, Endogenous, Enzyme, Fibrous, Gangrene, Glycine, Harper, Heals, Hepatic, Immune, Islet, Liver, Mild, Necrotic, Organs, Pancreas, Santyl, Seifter, Skin, Stems, Tadpole, Tissue, Triple Helix, Ulcer, Uses, Vanwart, Vibrio, Wound Healing, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Off Road

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Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on January 10, 2018.** Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. dba Saipan Adventures invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Tour Sales Representative (2)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (2)
High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (3)
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To be considered, applications must be submitted **not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Operations Manager, Tours (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages is preferred. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Operations Manager, Retail (1)
High School Diploma or a GED. At least two (2) years of prior related supervisory or managerial experience in a retail environment. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Business Development Director (1)
Bachelor's degree in Management, Travel and Tour, or any related field. Fluency in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages is preferred as incumbent must be able and willing to travel between China and Saipan to serve as a liaison. Must be able and willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Accountant (3)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Tour Sales Representative (17)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (4)
High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (2)
High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Inventory Assistant (2)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, full-time (5)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Sales Associate, part-time (4)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

To be considered, applications must be submitted **not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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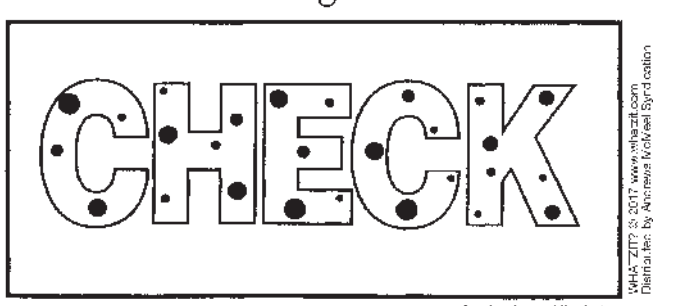

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Carter's season-high 24 lead Kings past Cavs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Vince Carter delivered a big performance for the Sacramento Kings.

Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue wasn't surprised. Not one bit.

Carter scored a season-high 24 points, and the Kings handed the Cavaliers their second straight loss with a 109-95 victory on Wednesday night.

"He's always been a guy, big stage, big moment, that's been his time to shine," said Lue, who faced Carter during his playing days. "Couldn't stop him tonight. He had it going."

The 40-year-old Carter had missed the previous three games due to a rib injury and coach's decision. The former dunk king gave Cleveland all kinds of problems in his return, shooting 10 of 12 in 30 minutes.

It was the first time in NBA history that a 40-plus-year-old reserve scored at least 20 points in a game, according to the Kings.

"The shot was falling tonight but it was our ball movement, and the ball found the open guy," Carter said. "It just made it fun to watch. If we play that way we could be a pretty good basketball team."

Carter made a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give Sacramento an 85-80 lead heading into the fourth quarter. He connected again from long range to make it 101-87 with 5:38 left, and then made a 16-foot double-pump shot over Jae Crowder before leaving to a standing ovation with 20.1 seconds left.

"He had some bombs," Cleveland's LeBron James said. "Once he got going, we couldn't slow him down."

James had 16 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists for the Cavs, and Kevin Love scored 23 points.

Cleveland was coming off a 99-92 loss at Golden State on Christmas Day, stopping the Cavaliers' 26-game streak with 100 points or more. Cleveland had not dropped consecutive games since a four-game slide from Oct. 25-Nov. 1.

"They out-scrapped us," Lue said. "They changed their lineup. We didn't prepare for that but that's no excuse."

AP

Sacramento Kings guard Vince Carter gestures to his teammates during an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, in Sacramento, Calif. The Kings won, 109-95.

Pelicans 128, Nets 113

In New Orleans, Rajon Rondo set a franchise record with a career-high 25 assists in just 30 minutes on the court, Anthony Davis had 33 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks, and the Pelicans beat the Brooklyn Nets.

DeMarcus Cousins had 27 points and 14 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 23 points for the Pelicans, who have won three straight.

Currently sitting on the edge of the Western Conference playoff picture, the Pelicans entered their current three-game homestand looking to string together some victories against teams that have struggled on the road.

Thunder 124, Raptors 107

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 30 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds, and Oklahoma City earned its sixth straight win.

Paul George scored 33 points, helping Oklahoma City improve to 12-3 in December. Carmelo Anthony and Steven Adams had 18 points apiece.

The Thunder won despite being on the wrong end of a 23-2 run in the first half, during which the Raptors built a 12-point lead.

Warriors 126, Jazz 101

In Oakland, Kevin Durant scored 21 points, and Golden State won for the 13th time in 14 games.

It was the first game between the teams since the Warriors' four-game playoff sweep in the Western Conference semifinals last spring, winning each game by double digits.

Golden State's Draymond Green had 14 points, eight rebounds and eight assists in just three quarters, two nights after tying the franchise record with his 20th career triple-double.

Rodney Hood scored 26 points for Utah.

Timberwolves 128, Nuggets 125, OT

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler scored 12 of Minnesota's 14 points in overtime and finished with a season-high 39 in the Timberwolves' fifth straight victory.

Minnesota also got a big game from Andrew Wiggins, who made five 3-pointers and scored 21 points. Taj Gibson added 20 points, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Will Barton led Denver with 28 points, while Trey Lyles added 23 points and 10 rebounds. Nikola Jokic scored 22 for the Nuggets, whose three-game winning streak ended.

Butler scored Minnesota's first 11 points in overtime. Then, with the game tied at 125 and 50 seconds to go, he found Jamal Crawford for an 18-foot jump shot.

Grizzlies 109, Lakers 99

In Los Angeles, Tyreke Evans scored 32 points and the Grizzlies handed the Lakers their fourth consecutive loss.

Jarell Martin added 20 points for Memphis, which had lost four of five and was coming off a 99-97 loss in Phoenix a night earlier on Tyson Chandler's dunk with 0.4 seconds left.

Brandon Ingram scored 23 points for the Lakers, and Jordan Clarkson had 22.

Los Angeles shot 37.6 percent from the field and was just 21 of 33 from the free-throw line.

Hawks 113, Wizards 99

In Atlanta, Dennis Schroder scored 21 points, Ersan Ilyasova added 20 and the Hawks won consecutive games for the first time this season.

The Wizards were coming off their best win of the season, a high-energy 111-103 victory at Boston on Monday, but they have been unable to shake a reputation for playing down to the competition.

Marco Belinelli scored 19 points in 20 minutes for Atlanta, the NBA's worst team at 9-25.

Bradley Beal had 20 points for Washington (19-16), which was trying for its first three-game win streak since mid-November. Markieff Morris had 18 points and eight rebounds, and John Wall finished with 10 points and 11 assists.

Celtics 102, Hornets 91

In Charlotte, Kyrie Irving scored 21 points and Al Horford had 20 points and 11 rebounds, powering the Celtics to the road win.

Jayson Tatum scored 10 of his 18 points in the pivotal fourth quarter, helping Boston break open a tight game. The Celtics had dropped three of four, including a 111-103 loss to visiting Washington on Christmas Day.

Horford gave the Hornets fits all night, hitting 8 of 11 shots, including 4 of 6 from beyond the 3-point arc.

Kemba Walker scored 24 points and Dwight Howard had 12 points and 17 rebounds for the Hornets, who are in the midst of a freefall down the Eastern Conference standings. Charlotte has lost 13 of 17 ahead of a four-game West Coast trip beginning Friday night at Golden State.

Bulls 92, Knicks 87

In Chicago, Kris Dunn scored 17 points, including two clutch free throws in the final seconds, and the surging Bulls rallied for the win.

Chicago trailed by as many as 15 in the first half, but shut down New York down the stretch of its ninth win in 11 games. The Knicks managed just three points in the final 5 1/2 minutes.

Lauri Markkanen scored 12 points for the Bulls, and Justin Holiday and Robin Lopez had 11 points apiece. Holiday also made three of Chicago's 10 3-pointers in 28 attempts, compared to a 4-for-23 performance from beyond the arc for New York.

Mavericks 98, Pacers 94

In Indianapolis, Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points, Harrison Barnes made the tiebreaking free throw with 37.7 seconds left, and Dallas snapped an eight-game road losing streak.

Nowitzki, the franchise's career leading scorer in his 20th season, scored six points in the final quarter to help the Mavericks rally for their third win in 17 road games.

Barnes and Yogi Ferrell each scored 13 points. Ferrell, an Indianapolis native, hit a 3-pointer to make it 94-90 Dallas with 2:09 remaining.

Rondo's 25 assists the most in NBA since 1996

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Rajon Rondo had a night.

The New Orleans Pelicans point guard did something that hasn't been done in the NBA in 21 years and posted this bizarre stat line that will likely never be duplicated in the process: 30 minutes, 2 points, 7 rebounds, 25 assists

He did all that in a 128-113 win over the Brooklyn Nets in what may eventually go down as the most Rajon Rondo of Rajon Rondo stat lines.

Obviously, the 25-assists column is what's remarkable here. It's a career high for the prolific passer that sets a franchise record with the Pelicans. In case you forgot, Chris Paul played a long time for the Pelicans and held the previous team record with 22 assists.

The last player to log 25 assists was Jason Kidd way back in 1996. For reference, that was the midpoint of Bill Clinton's stay in the White House.

"The No. 1 thing is we got the win. And then me, personally, I love passing the ball," Rondo said. "I've been blessed to play with a lot of great players, and what I take pride in is making those guys' jobs easier."

Rondo was quick to point out his whole team moved the ball well and shot accurately. The Pelicans had a record 40 assists as a team on 48 total field goals.

"That speaks for itself. It wasn't just me," Rondo said. "The ball was hopping and we were making plays for one another."

DeMarcus Cousins said Rondo made it look "easy."

The Pelicans "looked like the Harlem Globetrotters at one point," Cousins added. "It's fun to play that way."

Anthony Davis, meanwhile, credited Rondo, who missed the start of the season with an abdominal injury, for improving team defense.

Yankees president excited about offseason moves

AP
Yankees president Randy Levine looks on during a press conference to introduce Aaron Boone as the new team's manager at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017.

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees president Randy Levine defended Yankee Stadium as a proper home for the Pinstripe Bowl as he rattled off the list of great college football moments at both versions of the venue. Knute Rockne coached in the old one. Notre Dame played in the new one.

"This bowl is a part of the holiday season now in New York," Levine said.

So are temperatures in the low 20s at kickoff.

But even with the field chalked with hash marks instead of foul lines as Boston College and Iowa played Wednesday night, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman was in his office working on 2018. The offseason haul so far has been pretty good: the NL MVP in Giancarlo Stanton and a new manager in Aaron Boone.

"I think Cash and the baseball people did a great job," Levine said Wednesday. "I know he's upstairs working. He's not finished. We're hopeful there's more stuff to be done before spring training and opening day."

The Yankees acquired Stanton from the payroll-shedding Marlins and new CEO Derek Jeter. He led the majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBI last season, numbers dwarfed by the $295 million he's owed over the final decade of his record $325 million, 13-year contract.

"I think he's been a huge addition. He's the MVP of the National League," Levine said. "He's a great player and our fan base is excited. We're doing very well, selling a lot of tickets."

The Yankees could be a long ball and box-office smash: Stanton should form a potent 1-2 punch with AL Rookie of the Year Aaron Judge in the middle of the lineup. The retooled Yankees went 91-71 this season, their best record since 2012, and reached the ALCS before losing to Houston in seven games.

"This team has a lot of personality," Levine said. "There's a lot of great, great young players that really came together. We've got a great manager. I think Giancarlo Stanton will fit in really well with everybody."

The Stanton deal had some in baseball ready to resuscitate the "Evil Empire" moniker that was slapped on them in 2002. Levine laughed off the idea that it's fun to hate the Yankees again.

"As long as we're relevant and people are thinking about us, that's the best part," he said.

The Yankees are already planning for 2019.

Chargers won't watch scoreboard for playoff hopes

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP)—Although the Los Angeles Chargers will need help to get into the playoffs on the final day of the regular season, coach Anthony Lynn doesn't want his players to know whether they got that help until after their game against the Oakland Raiders.

"We need to go out here and get a win," Lynn said Wednesday. "All of the playoff scenarios really don't matter if we don't take care of our business."

Lynn said the Chargers won't post updated scores from around the league Sunday on their videoboards at StubHub Center, which is likely to be largely filled with Raiders fans. Unless the Chargers (8-7) complete their impressive turnaround from an 0-4 start and clinch a winning season by beating Oakland, their playoff dreams are dead anyway.

"I think the chances are good, but like I said, we have to win," Lynn said. "That's the only thing that matters right now. I like our chances. I hate that we don't control our own destiny and we need help, but we'll see."

Aside from this three-hour media blackout in Carson, Lynn generally believes his players should know where they are in the NFL playoff race on a week-to-week basis, and he encourages them to pay attention to the standings.

"There's no reason for us to know what the other teams are doing (this week)," Lynn said. "Our hands are going to be full."

The two scenarios in which the Chargers can grab a wild-card berth are both clear and plausible. They both depend on LA beating the Raiders and the Tennessee Titans (8-7) losing to the playoff-bound Jacksonville Jaguars (10-5), who say they aren't resting any starters despite being locked into the No. 3 seed in the AFC postseason.

If the Titans lose and Baltimore (9-6) beats Cincinnati (6-9), the Chargers are in. If the Ravens lose, the Chargers are still in if the Titans lose and the Buffalo Bills (8-7) beat Miami (6-9).

All of those games will kick off almost simultaneously on New Year's Eve.

"It seems pretty simple to me," quarterback Philip Rivers said. "The one common denominator is us winning. I can't find one yet where we can lose and still make it, so we've got to take care of our business. Obviously, we're all playing at the same time. We can only control what we can control. We have a chance to win our ninth game. Nine of our last 12 would be a heck of a bounce-back after making ourselves that 0-4 hole.

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Falcons soar in Juniors, Seniors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons reigned supreme in the Juniors and Seniors division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Falcons took their third straight championship in the Junior League after downing the Comets, 8-2, in their title showdown. The Falcons' two other crowns came from their 3-2 victory over the IT&E Fielders in 2015 and a 10-7 triumph against the Enforcers last year.

In the Senior League, the Falcons made it back-to-back following a 4-3 win over the Enforcers in this year's title duel.

The Falcons also advanced to the finals of the Majors, but were denied the sweep this season after the NSA Braves prevailed in their championship game, 7-6.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Falcons' Spencer Dickinson eyes his target before throwing from the mound during their title game against the Enforcers in the Senior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball this year at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CNMI athletes excel in off-island tourneys

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI athletes also made waves in several off-island competitions with Donivan Mendiola, Angel San Nicolas, Zarinae Sapong, Marianas Outrigger Club, Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers performing well in their respective events.

Mendiola highlighted his banner year with a gold medal win in the middleweight division and a third place in the overall title in last month's Michelob Ultra Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships, and International Invitational in Tamuning, Guam. He also finished third in the Ikaika Classic and NPC Sean Ray's Hawaiian Classic and then topped the Dee Clayton Classic.

San Nicolas, meanwhile, prevented a medal-less stint for Team CNMI in the 10th Pacific Mini Games when he clinched the bronze in the weightlifting competition in Port Vila, Vanuatu early this month.

Sapong, on the other hand set a new personal best time in the 100m sprint after clocking in at 13.29 seconds in the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London, United Kingdom.

In paddling, MOC's men's team topped the 500m and long distance events in the 19th Micronesia Cup held in Guam in October, while Napu's youth squad brought home four gold medals, four silvers, and a bronze from the same competition. MPP's women's team also came out victorious in the Micro Cup after ruling the 1,000m race.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Donivan Mendiola holds the CNMI flag with the third place medal around his neck the morning after he competed in the 2017 NPC Shawn Ray's Hawaiian Classic held last Nov. 4 at the Honolulu Convention Center in Hawaii.

CNMI gets hosting rights of regional events

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's John Davis, sixth right, joins other members of the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation for a group photo after attending the SPBF Congress in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

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REPORTER

The CNMI got the hosting rights for three regional tournaments.

First up for the Commonwealth is the 2018 Micronesian Athletics Championships, which will be held on June 14 to 16. The CNMI won the hosting rights for the event during this year's Oceania Athletics Association Congress in Fiji.

Up next is the 2018 Micro Cup with the CNMI picking up the hosting rights from Guam. Palau hosted the paddling competition in 2017. The CNMI's turn to hold the Micro Cup was announced during the event in Guam in October.

Also in October, the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation handed the hosting rights of the 2021 South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships to the Commonwealth. The CNMI was named the host of the event during the region's meeting held in the Solomon Islands.

Then early this month in Vanuatu, the CNMI received the Pacific Games Council flag, signifying the turn of the Commonwealth to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Goodbye XTERRA, hello KONQER, Ironman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This year saw the end of one of the longest-running signature events on island and the beginning of two promising ones.

Marianas Visitors Authority last month announced that it dropped XTERRA Saipan Championship from its 2018 sports calendar, while retaining KONQER and Ironman 70.3 Saipan. The two new events are expected to draw more off-island competitors to further build the CNMI's reputation as a sports haven for athletes.

KONQER Saipan debuted here last September, attracting nearly 500 participants, while Ironman 70.3 Saipan hit the road last March and lured about 200 athletes.

The final staging of XTERRA Saipan last March featured a little over 100 triathletes.

Tagaman, Saipan Marathon, and Hell of Marianas were also held this year, getting a good number of followers, and will return in 2018.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

South Korean Kwang Hoon Lee celebrates his first place finish in the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan.

Track oval undergoes resurfacing work

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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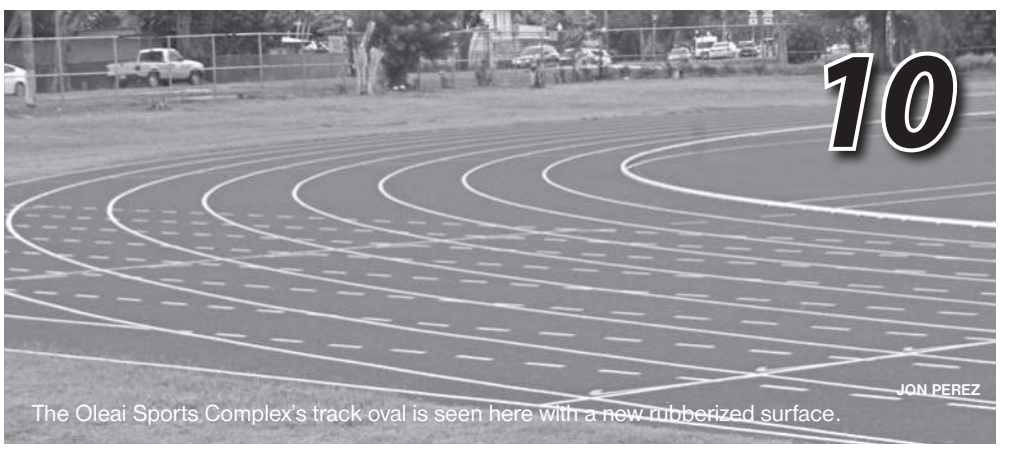
REPORTER

After nearly four years, resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex oval was finally completed.

The project started late December last year and finished in June. However, the facility is still closed to the public pending the issuance of the International Association of Athletics Federations certification and completion of improvement work in the surrounding areas, including the field.

The track is only one of the many facilities that received federal and local funding for renovation/repairs after being damaged by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. Initial financial assistance were also made available this year for the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, and the complex's grand stand, which will be improved in 2018.

Repair work at the sports complex is needed as the CNMI will be hosting the Pacific Mini Games in 2021.



JON PEREZ

The Oleai Sports Complex's track oval is seen here with a new rubberized surface.

‘The Crank’ gets first UFC win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank “The Crank” Camacho made Marianas known to the MMA world when he earned his first victory in the Ultimate Fighting Championship event in Australia last November.

Camacho fought Damien “Beatdown” Brown, beating the hometown bet via split decision in UFC 121 Werdum VS Tybura in front of a sellout crowd at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

The 28-year-old Brazilian Jiu-jitsu brown belt needed to match his opponent’s toughness and at the same time staved off several clear take down attempts to improve his fight record to 21 wins and five defeats.

Camacho, whose lifelong mixed martial arts career is to set foot inside the UFC octagon and win, earned the historic triumph after judge Evan Field scored it 30-27 in favor of the former CNMI junior golfer.

Judge Chris Aliendi also saw the fight in Camacho’s favor, 29-28, while Kevin Manderson gave the bout to Brown, 29-28, who dropped to 17-11. The Aussie bet is a known ground fighter after earning his eight wins via submission with only three by KO and six by decision.

After his UFC victory, Camacho won’t be fighting until February next year as his manager is trying to arrange a meeting with former UFC lightweight title contender Diego “The Dream” Sanchez.

UFC SYDNEY PHOTO
Frank “The Crank” Camacho, left, connects with a left to the face of Australian Damien Brown during their undercard bouts in UFC Fight Night 121 held last Nov. 18 at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

SSC, Tsunami Saipan swimmers deliver

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club’s Kento Akimaru, left, and Jinnosuke Suzuki wait for the start of their race during a local event at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club’s Jinnosuke Suzuki and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan’s Isaiah Aleksenko, Juhn Tenorio, and Ashley Dangol had a fruitful 2017 after dominating the CNMI record books.

Aleksenko set nine age group marks in the 9 to 10 division this year to own 11 of the records in his group and then added one when he climbed by to the 11 to 12 category, His fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer, Ashley, registered seven in the 9 to 11 age group and when the summer ended and the latter moved up to the 11 to 12 division, she gained five marks.

Tenorio got four marks in the 11 to 12 age group and one in the 13 to 14.

Jinnosuke matched Tenorio’s five records, but the former posted all of them in the 11 to 12 division.

Three other swimmers earned records this year—Maria and Nelson Batallones and Aasish Dangol.

Meanwhile, besides doing well in local races, SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers also had notable performances in off-island events.

SSC’s Kento Akimaru earned the top honors in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational held in Hawaii and also ruled the North Shore Swim Series in Oahu.

Jinnosuke joined the same competitions and finished first in the 11 to 12 age group in the swim meet and the ocean swim. Jinnosuke and his brother Lennosuke also saw action in the 2017 TAS Tigersharks Invitational Swim in Taiwan and the Suzuki siblings both placed runners-up in their respective division. Akimaru had a podium finish, too in the same meet, as he was ranked third in the over 15 age group.

As for Tsunami Saipan swimmers, they joined the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2017 and Aleksenko and the Dangol siblings brought home gold medals.

CNMI Junior Tennis Team stands out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior National Tennis Team kept the Nations Cup, besting 16 other countries that participated the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held in Fiji.

The title defense was a tough one for the Jeff Race-coached squad, as the group won by only one point against runner-up Tahiti and also had tough battles against New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

The back-to-back champion team was composed of Robbie Schorr, Carol Lee, Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, Conatsu and Coume Kaga, Maria and Anthony Gregoire, Hye Jin Elliot, Daniel Kang, Richard Steele, Song, Vincent Tudela, Sean Lee, Grace Choi, Michael Ren, and Malika Miyawaki.

The CNMI bets played in the girls and boys U12, U14 and U16 singles and doubles events. Carol gave the Commonwealth the most points with her title conquest in the U16 singles and doubles (with Malika Miyawaki).

Other CNMI players who had podium finishes in the POJC were Schorr (third in U16 singles and doubles with Song), Woo (third in U14 singles), Sean (second in U14 doubles), Paik and Woo (third in U14 doubles), and Conatsu (third in U14 singles and second in doubles with sister Coume).

Before playing in the POJC this year, Paik, Woo, and the Kaga sisters also saw action in various tournaments in Fiji and New Caledonia as part of their training under the Oceania Tennis Federation/International Tennis Federation scholarship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Junior Tennis Team players and coach Jeff Race pose for a photo after winning the Nations Cup in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

Soccer facility construction starts; NMIFA continues dev’t

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association embarked on its biggest project so far in its bid to continue the development of soccer in the CNMI.

NMIFA started construction of the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville in September and with the support of both the public and private sectors, the facility may be completed in the spring of 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI U16 Boys National Team‘s Ian Maniago reacts after scoring against Timor-Leste during the second half of their game in the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers in September at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

Though NMIFA committed some of its resources for building an artificial soccer pitch in the CNMI, it remains dedicated to the development of its players, coaches, and officials, sending them to off-island competitions and training camps.

The CNMI Girls U15 National Team participated in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 in Shanghai, China; CNMI Boys U15 National Team in the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers in Bangkok, Thailand; and the CNMI Boys U18 National Team and CNMI Women’s National Team to the Marianas Cup in Guam.

The boys U18 players also had training camps in South Korea and Hong Kong, the boys U15 crew in Guam, and the women’s squad in Japan. The Commonwealth’s players challenged Japan and Chinese-Taipei teams, too in friendly matches here.

In the club level, competitions got tougher as championships were spread out among MP United, TanHoldings, Kanoa, and Shirley’s teams.

As for the schools, NMIFA also continues to reach out to them by strengthening its Interscholastic School League and National Elite Academy.

Not to be left out was its women’s program with NMIFA providing regular tournaments for both competitive and recreational players through league sponsor Dove.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee trades shots with her brother Sean during a training session yesterday at the Kanoa Resort courts.

SPORTS STORY OF THE YEAR

Carol shines in Jr. ITF Circuit

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee left a good impression in the Junior ITF Circuit this year after competing in a handful of tournaments in Asia, Oceania, Pacific, and Africa.

The 16-year-old player won two doubles championships and one singles crown and made several finals semis, and quarterfinals appearanceS in tournaments held in New Zealand, Morocco, New Caledonia, Fiji, Malaysia, Thailand, and South Korea.

She got her first title (doubles) this year in the RUC Tennis Junior Open in Casablanca and then took the singles and doubles crowns in the New Caledonia ITF Junior Open and BNP Paribas Junior de Nouvelle-Caledonie, respectively.

Though busy in competing in the Junior ITF Circuit, Lee still found time to represent the CNMI to the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji and capped her last season in the annual tournament in style by sweeping the girls U16 singles and doubles titles.

Lee also suited up for Pacific Oceania Team that participated in the Junior Fed Cup in India and the Fed Cup in Tajikistan.

For her final tournament of the year, the three-time NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year went to China to join the Australian Open 2018 Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff Tournament. She made it to the quarterfinals of the qualifier which featured players in the Top 200 rankings.

Lee, as of Dec. 25, 2017, is ranked No. 212 in the world and got her highest ranking (No. 208) last Aug. 8. She now has 213.75 combined ranking points (doubles and singles) and looks forward to moving up to the ladder next year as she competes in more off-island events, including a possible stint in the 2018 Australian Open (Juniors) Qualifying Tournament in Melbourne.

"2017 was a very challenging year for me. I moved to Fiji for training and it was a big adjustment, but I learned so much from my matches and practice sessions. I got to compete against great tennis players from all over the world, saw lots of cool things, and made so many friends," Lee said.

"Representing Pacific Oceania and the CNMI in the Fed Cup was a highlight for me and I am looking forward to representing our islands again in 2018. I may not be able to accomplish all of my goals in 2017, but that makes me want to work even harder for next year's competitions," she added.